

County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of James Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the victim observed the defendant compelling children to expose their penis' while the defendant measured them.

TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-SIXTH COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, from on or about the 1st day of March, 1986 to on or about the 1st day of July, 1986 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of James Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the victim observed the defendant compelling children to expose their penis' while the defendant measured them.

TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-SEVENTH COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, from on or about the 1st day of March, 1986 to on or about the 1st day of July, 1986 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of James Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the victim observed the defendant compelling children to expose their penis' while the defendant measured them.

TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-EIGHTH COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, from on or about the 1st day of March, 1986 to on or about the 1st day of July, 1986 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of James Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the victim observed the defendant compelling children to expose their penis' while the defendant measured them.

TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-NINTH COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, from on or about the 1st day of March, 1986 to on or about the 1st day of July, 1986 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of James Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the victim observed the defendant compelling children to expose their penis' while the defendant measured them.

TWO HUNDRED SEVENTIETH COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, from on or about the 1st day of March, 1986 to on or about the 1st day of July, 1986 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of James Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the victim observed the defendant compelling children to expose their penis' while the defendant measured them.

TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIRST COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, from on or about the 1st day of March, 1986 to on or about the 1st day of July, 1986 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of James Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the victim observed the defendant compelling children to expose their penis' while the defendant measured them.

TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-SECOND COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, from on or about the 1st day of March, 1986 to on or about the 1st day of July, 1986 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of James Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the victim observed the defendant participating in a game entitled "Three Muskateers", wherein sexual acts were committed.

: TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-THIRD COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, from on or about the 1st day of March, 1986 to on or about the 1st day of July, 1986 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of James Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the victim observed the defendant participating in a game entitled "Three Muskateers", wherein sexual acts were committed.

TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-FOURTH COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, from on or about the 1st day of March, 1986 to on or about the 1st day of July, 1986 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of James Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the victim observed the defendant participating in a game entitled "Three Muskateers", wherein sexual acts were committed.

TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIFTH COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, from on or about the 1st day of March, 1986 to on or about the 1st day of July, 1986 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of James Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the victim observed the defendant's exposed penis.

TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-SIXTH COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, from on or about the 1st day of March, 1986 to on or about the 1st day of July, 1986 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of James Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the defendant permitted the victim to observe a computer disc entitled "Dirty Movie" depicting a naked woman touching her vagina.

TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-SEVENTH COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, from on or about the 1st day of March, 1986 to on or about the 1st day of July, 1986 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of James Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the defendant permitted the victim to observe a computer disc entitled "Strip Poker" depicting a naked female.

TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-EIGHTH COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, from on or about the 1st day of March, 1986 to on or about the 1st day of July, 1986 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of James Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the defendant permitted the victim to observe a computer disc entitled "Stroker", depicting a hand masturbating a penis.

TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-NINTH COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, ROSS GOLDSTEIN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, ROSS GOLDSTEIN, from on or about the 1st day of March, 1986 to on or about the 1st day of July, 1986 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of James Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the victim observed a child placing his mouth on the penis of the defendant while JESSE FRIEDMAN held the child.

TWO HUNDRED EIGHTIETH COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, ROSS GOLDSTEIN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, ROSS GOLDSTEIN, from on or about the 1st day of March, 1986 to on or about the 1st day of July, 1986 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of James Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the victim observed the defendant contact the defendant's penis to the anus of a child.

;
TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIRST COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, ROSS GOLDSTEIN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, ROSS GOLDSTEIN, from on or about the 1st day of March, 1986 to on or about the 1st day of July, 1986 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of James Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the victim observed the defendant contact the defendant's penis to the anus of a child.

TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-SECOND COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, ROSS GOLDSTEIN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, ROSS GOLDSTEIN, from on or about the 1st day of March, 1986 to on or about the 1st day of July, 1986 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of James Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the victim observed the defendant touch the penis of JESSE FRIEDMAN.

TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-THIRD COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, ROSS GOLDSTEIN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, ROSS GOLDSTEIN, from on or about the 1st day of March, 1986 to on or about the 1st day of July, 1986 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of James Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the victim observed the defendant touch the penis of JESSE FRIEDMAN.

TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOURTH COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, ROSS GOLDSTEIN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, ROSS GOLDSTEIN, from on or about the 1st day of March, 1986 to on or about the 1st day of July, 1986 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of James Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the victim observed the defendant touch the penis of JESSE FRIEDMAN.

TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIFTH COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, ROSS GOLDSTEIN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, ROSS GOLDSTEIN, from on or about the 1st day of March, 1986 to on or about the 1st day of July, 1986 in the

County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of James Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the victim observed the defendant touch the penis of JESSE FRIEDMAN.

TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-SIXTH COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, ROSS GOLDSTEIN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, ROSS GOLDSTEIN, from on or about the 1st day of March, 1986 to on or about the 1st day of July, 1986 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of James Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the victim observed the defendant touch the penis of JESSE FRIEDMAN.

TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-SEVENTH COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, ROSS GOLDSTEIN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, ROSS GOLDSTEIN, from on or about the 1st day of March, 1986 to on or about the 1st day of July, 1986 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of James Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the victim observed the defendant touch the penis of JESSE FRIEDMAN.

TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-EIGHTH COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, ROSS GOLDSTEIN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, ROSS GOLDSTEIN, from on or about the 1st day of March, 1986 to on or about the 1st day of July, 1986 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of James Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the victim observed the defendant participating in a game entitled "Nude Limbo" wherein children were naked.

TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-NINTH COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, ROSS GOLDSTEIN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, ROSS GOLDSTEIN, from on or about the 1st day of March, 1986 to on or about the 1st day of July, 1986 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner

likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of James Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the victim observed the defendant participating in a game entitled "Three Muskateers" wherein sexual acts were committed.

TWO HUNDRED NINTIETH COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, ROSS GOLDSTEIN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, ROSS GOLDSTEIN, from on or about the 1st day of March, 1986 to on or about the 1st day of July, 1986 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of James Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the victim observed the defendant participating in a game entitled "Three Muskateers" wherein sexual acts were committed.

TWO HUNDRED NINETY-FIRST COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, ROSS GOLDSTEIN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, ROSS GOLDSTEIN, from on or about the 1st day of March, 1986 to on or about the 1st day of July, 1986 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of James Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the victim observed the defendant participating in a game entitled "Three Muskateers" wherein sexual acts were committed.

TWO HUNDRED NINETY-SECOND COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, from on or about the 1st day of January, 1987 to on or about the 1st day of April, 1987 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of Lawrence Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the defendant showed the victim pictures of naked people.

TWO HUNDRED NINETY-THIRD COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, from on or about the 1st day of January, 1987 to on or about the 1st day of April, 1987 in the

County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of Lawrence Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the defendant directed a child to stand in the corner of the room and rub his exposed penis up against the wall.

TWO HUNDRED NINETY-FOURTH COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, from on or about the 1st day of January, 1987 to on or about the 1st day of April, 1987 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of Lawrence Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the defendant permitted the victim to observe a computer disc entitled "Strip Poker" depicting a naked female.

TWO HUNDRED NINETY-FIFTH COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, from on or about the 1st day of January, 1987 to on or about the 1st day of April, 1987 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of Lawrence Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the defendant permitted the victim to observe a computer disc entitled "Sex Style Test" which asked sexually related questions.

TWO HUNDRED NINETY-SIXTH COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, from on or about the 1st day of January, 1987 to on or about the 1st day of April, 1987 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of Lawrence Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the defendant permitted the victim to observe a computer disc entitled "Dirty Movie" depicting a naked woman touching her vagina.

TWO HUNDRED NINETY-SEVENTH COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, from on or about the 1st day of March, 1986 to on or about the 1st day of July, 1986 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of Daniel Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the victim observed the defendant sexually abuse children.

TWO HUNDRED NINETY-EIGHTH COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, ROSS GOLDSTEIN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, ROSS GOLDSTEIN, from on or about the 1st day of March, 1986 to on or about the 1st day of July, 1986 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of Daniel Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the victim observed the defendant sexually abuse children.

TWO HUNDRED NINETY-NINTH COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, from on or about the 1st day of September, 1986 to on or about the 31st day of December, 1986 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of Daniel Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the victim observed the defendant sexually abuse children.

THREE HUNDREDTH COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, ROSS GOLDSTEIN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, ROSS GOLDSTEIN, from on or about the 1st day of September, 1986 to on or about the 31st day of December, 1986 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of Daniel Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the victim observed the defendant sexually abuse children.

THREE HUNDRED FIRST COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, from on or about the 1st day of January, 1987 to on or about the 1st day of April, 1987 in the

County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of Patrick Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the defendant showed him pictures of naked people.

THREE HUNDRED SECOND COUNT

AND THE GRAND JURY OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, by this indictment, further accuse the defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, of the crime of ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, committed as follows:

The defendant, JESSE FRIEDMAN, from on or about the 1st day of January, 1987 to on or about the 1st day of April, 1987 in the County of Nassau, State of New York, knowingly acted in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental and moral welfare of Patrick Doe, a male child, less than sixteen years old, to wit: the defendant showed him pictures of naked people.

All of the acts and transactions alleged in each of the several counts of this indictment are connected together and form part of a common scheme and plan.

Dated: November 7, 1988


DENIS DILLON
District Attorney

COUNTY COURT : COUNTY OF NASSAU

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

- against -

JESSE FRIEDMAN and ROSS GOLDSTEIN,
(as a juvenile offender under Counts
2, 4, 6, 8, 42, 109, 110, 111, 112,
113, 114, 121, 122, 123 and 124),

Defendant

DENIS DILLON
District Attorney

INDICTMENT FOR

As to Jesse Friedman:
Sodomy, First Degree (126 Counts)
Sodomy, Second Degree (1 Count)
Sexual Abuse, First Degree (9 Counts)
Sexual Abuse, Second Degree (1 Count)
Use of a Child in a Sexual
Performance (9 Counts)
Endangering Welfare of a Child
(52 Counts)

As to Ross Goldstein:
Sodomy, First Degree (78 Counts)
Sodomy, Second Degree (1 Count)
Sexual Abuse, First Degree (4 Counts)
Sexual Abuse, Second Degree (1 Count)
Use of a Child in a Sexual
Performance (5 Counts)
Endangering Welfare of a Child
(29 Counts)

A TRUE BILL

 Foreman

APP.

0117



PAN:KOR:sjw
F.#
GC/7/2264

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

- - - - -X

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- against -

PREMISES KNOWN AND DESCRIBED AS
THE SINGLE FAMILY, DETACHED
DWELLING LOCATED AT 17 PICADILLY
ROAD, GREAT NECK, NEW YORK 11023

- - - - -X

AFFIDAVIT FOR
A SEARCH WARRANT

Title 18, U.S.C.,
Sections 1461 and 2252

87-1225M

EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, SS:

JOHN E. McDERMOTT, being duly sworn, deposes and
says that he is a United States Postal Inspector, duly ap-
pointed according to law and acting as such.

Upon information and belief, there is presently
located at the PREMISES KNOWN AND DESCRIBED AS THE SINGLE
FAMILY, DETACHED DWELLING LOCATED AT 17 PICADILLY ROAD,
GREAT NECK, N.Y. 11023 photographs, magazines, books,
videotapes and other unusual depictions of children engaging
in sexually explicit conduct and letters, envelopes, files,
correspondence, notes, personal computer discs, and the personal
computer needed to read the computer disks relating to the
distribution and receipt of child pornography through the
United States mail, all of which are being used in

2.

connection with and are evidence of violations of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1461 and 2252.

The source of your deponent's information and the grounds for his belief are:

1. I am a United States Postal Inspector, and have been so employed for the past four and one-half (4½) years. For the past three years, my investigative duties have been focused upon the illegal use of the United States mails involving the mailing of child pornography and other material depicting sexually explicit conduct by children under the age of 18 years in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252 and 2256. My investigations have also involved violations of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2251 (Sexual Exploitation of Children). I have been involved in approximately 150 such investigations. During these investigations, I have corresponded with and met with violators of these statutes, in an undercover capacity. I have read and examined in excess 700 letters from and between pedophiles and have personally examined thousands of photographs, slides and films depicting children engaged in sexually explicit conduct. I have received extensive training and have read numerous publications dealing with the sexual exploitation of children and child pornography. For this affidavit I will refer to any visual depiction of a person under the age of

3.

eighteen (18) years engaging in sexually explicit conduct as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256(2) as child pornography.

2. Your deponent has been informed by agents of the United States Customs Service that in July of 1984, a child pornography magazine entitled "Boy-Love" addressed to Arnold Friedman, 17 Picadilly Road, Great Neck, N.Y. 11023; was the subject of a United States Customs seizure at John F. Kennedy Airport.

3. I have been informed by Postal Inspector Daniel Mihalko, that on or about November 23, 1984, Inspector Mihalko, using an undercover name and address, wrote to Mr Friedman inquiring if Mr. Friedman had any BL (Boy-Lover) material for sale.

4. In a letter postmarked November 26, 1984, in response to Inspector Mihalko's letter, Mr. Arnold Friedman, using the address of 17 Picadilly Road, Great Neck, New York 11023, wrote "Rec'd your note on BL material. I have none to sell but am interested in obtaining. Do you know of any sources?"

5. On or about December 6, 1984, Inspector Mihalko, again using an undercover name and address, asked Mr. Friedman if he had any material available for trade or for a loan.

4.

6. Over a year later, in a letter postmarked December 26, 1985, Mr. Arnold Friedman responded to Inspector Mihalko's letter, using the address of 17 Picadilly Road, Great Neck, New York 11023 and wrote "Have you found any good sources? I have a great photo book from Holland that might be copyable. Could you do it?"

7. On or about January 6, 1986, Mihalko again wrote to Friedman that he could copy the book and return the original back to Friedman.

8. In a letter postmarked January 9, 1986 Mr. Arnold Friedman using the address of 17 Picadilly Road, Great Neck, N.Y. 11023, wrote "The book is 'Joe (14) and his Uncle'. I think I'd like you to send me something (sort of good faith) and I will forward this rather precious book to you".

9. On or about February 6, 1986, Mihalko wrote "Yes I certainly can copy your book. I've enclosed two photos as a show of good faith like you requested".

10. Inside a large envelope postmarked February 8, 1986, with a return address of 17 Picadilly Road, Great Neck, New York 11023, was a handwritten note as follows "Stan - Enjoy"!, signed "Arnie". Along with the note is a magazine entitled "Joe and his Uncle". The magazine is printed by a company in Denmark called COQ. Inside the

magazine there are many photographs of an adult male engaged in sexually explicit conduct with a minor boy.

11. Since mailing the magazine "Joe and his Uncle", Mr. Arnold Friedman, with a return address of 17 Picadilly Road, Great Neck, N.Y. 11023, has written on three different occasions to the undercover inspector's name and address. Those letters are postmarked August 18, 1986, October 22, 1986 and March 13, 1987. In each letter Mr. Friedman requests that the magazine be mailed back to him. Mr. Friedman also writes in each letter that once the magazine is returned, he has other similar materials he would share.

12. A mail cover conducted under your affiant's supervision in the month of July 1986 uncovered two items addressed to Mr. Arnold Friedman of 17 Picadilly Road, Great Neck, New York 11023, with a return address of the Netherlands. Your affiant knows from experience that the Netherlands is a major source of child pornography.

13. In October 1986 Mr. Arnold Friedman of 17 Picadilly Road, Great Neck, New York 11023 completed a questionnaire to join the Inspection Service's undercover pen pal club for individuals interested in child pornography. This questionnaire was returned to your affiant acting in an undercover capacity. In answering the questionnaire Mr. Friedman stated that he prefers homemade

6.

photos, domestic (USA) and foreign magazines, domestic and foreign films and professional and homemade videotapes of hardcore sexual scences. He also stated that he spends \$200 per year on these sexual materials which he purchases from an adult book store, by mail and from Europe. Mr. Friedman answered the question of rating the material he prefers by checking off the categories "Pre-Teen Sex - Heterosexual", "Pre-sex Homosexual, Teenage sex (13-16) - Heterosexual, "Teenage Sex - (13-16) Homosexual" and "Homosexual Sex". Regarding the material that he purchases, Mr. Friedman states he is a collector.

14. On October 28, 1987 the Great Neck Post Office confirmed to affiant that Mr. Arnold Friedman and his family receive mail at 17 Picadilly Road, Great Neck, New York 11023 and that they are the only recipients of mail at that address. Your affiant has seen the building at 17 Picadilly Road, Great Neck, New York and observed that it appears to be a single family residence.

15. On or about November 3, 1987, your affiant, along with other Postal Inspectors, intends to make a controlled delivery of an envelope containing the magazine "Joe and his Uncle" and return it to Arnold Friedman at 17 Picadilly Road, Great Neck, New York 11023. Because the mail will be on a true course to its ultimate destination, I request that a search warrant for the Premises be issued

7.

today with its execution contingent upon fulfillment of the following procedure:

a) On or about November 3, 1987, I or another Postal Inspector wearing a letter carrier uniform will deliver the magazine "Joe and his Uncle" to Mr. Friedman, 17 Picadilly Road, Great Neck, New York 11023.

b) Delivery will be made only to Mr. Friedman personally or to an adult willing to accept delivery on his behalf. Every effort will be made to make the delivery to Mr. Friedman;

c) Upon delivery of the package, the Postal Inspector making the delivery will attempt to obtain a signed receipt from the recipient acknowledging such delivery;and

d) After approximately fifteen (15) minutes, fellow Postal Inspectors and I will execute the search warrant.

16. As a result of my training and experience, I have learned that the following characteristics are

8.

generally found to exist and to be true in cases involving persons who buy, produce, trade, or sell child pornography.

- a) Such persons receives sexuals gratifications and satisfaction from fantasy involving the use of pictures or other photographic or art mediums.
- b) They collect sexually explicit materials consisting of photographs, magazine, motion pictures, video tapes, books and slides, which they use for their own sexual gratification.
- c) They rarely, if ever, dispose of their sexually explicit materials, which are treated as prize possessions.
- d) Such persons often correspond or meet with one another to share information as a means of gaining status, trust, acceptance, and psychological support.
- e) They rarely, if ever, destroy correspondence received from others, unless they are specifically requested to do so.
- f) Such persons cut pictures of children out of magazines, newspapers, books, and other publication which they use as means of fantasy relationships. These "cut-outs" help to identify the age and sexual preference of the person under investigation.

9.

g) They collect books, magazines, newspaper, and other writing on the subject of sexual activities with children. They maintain these as a way of understanding their own feelings towards children, or justifying those feelings and finding contenance for their illicit behavior and desires. These people rarely destroy these materials because of the psychological support they provide.

h) Such persons often collect, read, copy or maintain names, addresses, phone numbers, or lists of persons who have advertised in publications that they have similar sexual interests. These contacts are maintained as a means of personal referral, exchange and commercial profit. These names may be maintained in the original publications, in phone or note books, on personal computer disc or merely on scraps of paper.

i) Such persons often memorialize and preserve their experiences and correspondence on personal computer discs.

WHEREFORE, your affiant respectfully requests that a Search Warrant issue authorizing your affiant or any Postal Inspector, upon fulfillment of the conditions set forth in paragraph 15 herein and with appropriate assistance, to enter the PREMISES KNOWN AND DESCRIBED AS THE SINGLE FAMILY, DETACHED DWELLING LOCATED AT 17


10.

PICADILLY ROAD, GREAT NECK, N.Y. 11023 and therein search for and seize photographs, magazines, books, videotapes and other unusual depictions of children engaging in sexually explicit conduct and letters, envelopes, files, correspondence, noted, personal computer disc, the personal computer needed to read the computer disks relating to the distribution and receipt of child pornography through the United States mail, all of which are being used in connection with and are evidence of violations of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1461 and 2252.



JOHN E. McDERMOTT
Postal Inspector

Sworn to before me this
3rd day of November, 1987



UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

United States District Court

EASTERN

DISTRICT OF

NEW YORK

In the Matter of the Search of

(Name, address or brief description of person or property to be searched)

PREMISES KNOWN AND DESCRIBED
AS 17 PICADILLY ROAD,
GREAT NECK, NEW YORK 11023

SEARCH WARRANT

CASE NUMBER:

87-1225M

TO: JOHN McDERMOTT
Postal Service

assisted by LAR
and any Authorized Officer of the United States

Affidavit(s) having been made before me by JOHN McDERMOTT who has reason to
Affiant

believe that ☐ on the person of or ☒ on the premises known as (name, description and/or location)

PREMISES KNOWN AND DESCRIBED AS 17 PICADILLY ROAD,
GREAT NECK, NEW YORK 11023

In the EASTERN District of NEW YORK there is now
concealed a certain person or property, namely (describe the person or property)

photographs, magazines, books, videotapes and other unusual depictions of children
engaging in sexually explicit conduct and letters, envelopes, files, correspondence,
notes, personal computer discs and the personal computer needed to read the computer
disks relating to the distribution and receipt of child pornography through the
United States mail.

I am satisfied that the affidavit(s) and any recorded testimony establish probable cause to believe that the person
or property so described is now concealed on the person or premises above-described and establish grounds for
the issuance of this warrant.

Upon fulfillment of the conditions set forth in the Affidavit for Search Warrant annexed hereto
YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to search on or before Nov 13 1997 Date

(not to exceed 10 days) the person or place named above for the person or property specified, serving this warrant
and making the search (in the daytime — 6:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M.) (at any time in the day or night as I find
reasonable cause has been established) and if the person or property be found there to seize same, leaving a copy
of this warrant and receipt for the person or property taken, and prepare a written inventory of the person or prop-
erty seized and promptly return this warrant to _____
as required by law. U.S. Judge or Magistrate

Nov 13 1997
Date and Time issued

at

New York, NY
City and State

Name and Title of Judicial Officer

[Signature]
Signature of Judicial Officer

HIT THE GROUND RUNNING FILMS

"FRAN GALASSO/ANTHONY SQUEGLIA

INTERVIEW WITH FRAN GALASSO

CORRESPONDENT: UNIDENTIFIED

PRODUCER: ROGEN

TAPE #97

(OFF-MIKE CONVERSATION)

QUESTION:

So anyway, thank you for sitting with us. I think it basically-- (SOUND GOES OUT)

QUESTION:

So-- I wanna-- basically, I wanted to talk a little bit about-- the same stuff we talked about last time, which is just, you know, generally-- you have, I think, you know, a pretty good recollection of the case and what your experience was with it. And I would love to know, just from your perspective, how it-- first came to your attention, how-- you know, there was a moment when this case was never a part of your life.

FRAN GALASSO:

Right. Right.

TAPE #97

PG. 2

QUESTION:

And do you remember the day that it-- that it became a part of your life?

FRAN GALASSO:

I do, yeah. I don't remember the date, but-- I remember the incident. We were-- we were just busy, working in the office. Was one of the things that I-- I probably love best about the job. Just when you think-- everything is going to be dull, something gets dropped-- on your lap. You know, and it turns out to be something bigger than you ever-- than you ever thought.

What happened was one of the-- detectives from the vice squad came in to see me on a-- on this particular day. And he had a list. And-- what had happened was the previous day he had been asked to-- accompany the United States postal inspectors-- on a search warrant in a raid and-- and-- and arrest that they were making on-- Arnold Freedman (PH)-- in-- up in-- in-- on Piccadilly-- Road in Great Neck.

TAPE #97

PG. 3

And when they went in, that was a controlled delivery-- receipt of child pornography. Which, as you know, is against the law. And the postal inspector had been communicating-- with Arnold on and off for a period time. And they had-- he had arranged to buy this particular-- or receive-- I'm not sure if it was for money or not-- piece of child pornography.

And the postal inspector goes, and he's dressed as a regular FedEx guy, or postal guy. And as soon as you accept that delivery, you're under arrest. And they went in that day with a search warrant. And when they searched the house-- they realized that the house-- the bottom half of the house had been turned into a school. And it was a computer school.

And one of the documents that the search warrant authorized them to pick up was this list-- any-- any and all lists. And part of the list

TAPE #97

PG. 4

contained a list of what they thought might be students. They really weren't sure at that particular time.

And they told us about this. And that's how the case started. And we just basically said, "Well, what do we have?" I don't know what we have. I picked two detectives. I said, "Pick a name from the list-- and go out and-- see what you can find out. Let's-- let's talk to this person." Seemed to be-- you know, I don't remember the kid's name. But it seemed like it was a youngster's (STATIC) name, like kind of a nickname.

(OFF-MIKE CONVERSATION)

QUESTION:

I think you were saying that-- you were saying, "So what do we have here?"

FRAN GALASSO:

What do we have here? And I sent two detectives out that-- that same evening to do an interview. Pick a name and do an interview. And when they came back-- they had really hit pay dirt.

TAPE #97

PG. 5

It was almost as if this young man was waiting for them. He was a little boy about-- as I remember, about ten or 11 years old. Had two older brothers who had also been-- students in the computer school at-- at a prior time. And-- this little boy was so-- angry about what was going on. He didn't reveal everything in that first interview.

But what he had done was-- at that point in time, Elaine Freedman had been operating a daycare center-- at the same premises earlier in the day, before the computer school. And she had posted-- advertisements-- for that all over town, in supermarkets and different stores. He had gone around town ripping down all of these advertisements, because he didn't want any children in that house.

When they went to speak with him, he gave the detectives those advertisements. And that was--

TAPE #97

PG. 6

that was their introduction-- to the case. And they were able to talk to him about why.

And he didn't say very much about-- sexual abuse, other-- we gave them enough hints. He told them that he had been touched at that point.

(OFF-MIKE CONVERSATION)

QUESTION:

So kids had taken down these--

MALE VOICE:

This little boy had taken down those posters and advertisements and sheets. He gave them to the two detectives. And he explained to them-- aside from the touch-- the inappropriate touching-- that how it had happened was, when he first started going to computer school-- Arnold would sit with him for long periods of time.

And then he'd say something like-- "You know what? Would you go out to my car? In the back seat there are some books I want you to get." And he'd go out, he'd get the books, (DOG BARK)

TAPE #97

PG. 7

bring them back. And they'd always be pornography, some form of pornography.

It started with adult pornography, and it gradually worked its way up to kiddy porn. Now all kids are interesting in seeing things like this. Kids just are at that particular age. But what that does is that makes them very complicit in the whole thing. And instead of viewing themselves as victims, they now see themselves as doing something wrong.

Because they know they're not supposed to be-- looking at something like this. They know if-- if their parents were to find out, maybe they'd get yelled at or told, "You know, you-- you should know better." So it-- it's a way of keeping them silent. And it's a way of sort of initiating them into the whole-- process. That was an important first step.

And what this little boy was able to do was to

TAPE #97

PG. 8

identify, then, other children who were in not only his computer class, but many other computer classes. And it was at that point that we were able to learn that these were classes that went on, literally, every day of the week, and Saturday, went on during special sessions, during-- school vacations in the summers.

And we were able to put together-- a master list-- of the students and their addresses. And we went to next day to-- you know, to my boss. I went to my boss and inspector, sat down with him, told him what I thought-- we had. And-- probably were gonna have a big case.

We got some extra people assigned to the squad. Because basically, it was a small sq-- squad. We had-- couple a people come over from-- vice who were experts in film. And-- vice and pornography. We had people who were specially trained come over from Juvenile Aid Bureau to help us with that. (DOG BARK)

TAPE #97

PG. 9

And we drew a big map of the whole village of Great Neck and King's Point, and the areas where these-- where these kids lived. Mapped it out, sectioned it off. Divided everybody into teams, and started sending-- detectives out to do interviews. That's how it began.

It started about-- some time in October. And the arrests were actually made the day before Thanksgiving-- Thanksgiving Eve.

QUESTION:

Now the-- the-- the federal investigation, when the postal inspectors went in and they raided the house, that was in-- f-- that was in November. I think that was around November third.

FRAN GALASSO:

Okay. I was gonna-- I was gonna say either late October, early November, right. So in that period of time, we did all that work of interviewing.

TAPE #97

PG. 10

QUESTION:

And how much time was there between the time that-- you knew of the-- that-- between the time that the f-- the postal inspector raided the house and the time that you went in for the second-- raid?

FRAN GALASSO:

Well, it would have been less than a month, because we did that the day before Thanksgiving.

QUESTION:

And why did it-- why was it on the day before Thanksgiving?

FRAN GALASSO:

Well, I don't think we picked the day before Thanksgiving. That wasn't a deliberate thing. We had to wait until we had-- basically enough evidence-- both in-- in terms of statements from children. And it takes-- it takes a while to get these statements.

First of all-- sometimes you're dealing with very reluctant parents. They get-- rightly, very

TAPE #97

PG. 11

hysterical when they realize what-- what their child may have been a victim of.

So the first thing you have to do is develop some sort of a rapport and a trust with the-- with the parent before you even-- talk to the kid. So that-- that's the first step. There was other evidence that had to be-- discovered. Some of these kids had been given-- pornographic computer disks by Arnold and Jessie. We were able to recover that.

So basically, it was a-- it was a period of time of-- getting statements, getting enough good witnesses so that we felt we had-- the genesis for a really good case. And getting enough to get a search warrant and go in and hit the-- and hou-- hit the house a second time to see what we would find. And then make the arrest that same day. That's basically-- what happened.

And also, the-- the parents were becoming--

TAPE #97

PG. 12

impatient. They wanted something done immediately. We couldn't do it immediately. We had to wait.

We had many meetings with them where we-- we explain, "Look, you know, we-- we understand your feelings. But you can't go marching over there." That was their plan. They wanted to go marching over, break down the door themselves and-- accost this guy. "What have you been doing? What have you been involved in?"

And you-- you-- you can understand it. I mean they were-- they were absolutely destroyed over this. But-- you had to keep working with them and telling them, "Look, we wanna do this the right way so that when we make these arrests, when we go in and we do the search warrant, we're gonna have good evidence, we're gonna have good statements, we wanna get a conviction on this case. Want these people to go away for a long-- long period of time."

TAPE #97

PG. 13

QUESTION:

Sure. And that was for their own good, obviously.

FRAN GALASSO:

It was for their own good. So basically, we were ready to do that. I believe we went in two o'clock in the afternoon the day before Thanksgiving. That's how it worked.

QUESTION:

And then tell me what that was like. How did that-- how did that transpire? The-- going in?

FRAN GALASSO:

Well, we had-- we had teams-- we had teams of-- of detectives. I don't recall now exactly how many that we had. We had good-- I'd say we had eight-- at least eight to 12 detectives going in that day.

We rang the doorbell. As soon as he realized who it was-- he wasn't gonna let us in. So one of the detectives broke the door down. Because we were-- we had a "no knock" warrant. We were

TAPE #97

PG. 14

afraid of-- destruction of evidence. And we went in, and-- we started looking around.

(BREAK IN TAPE)

(OFF-MIKE CONVERSATION)

QUESTION:

So you had a "no knock" warrant.

FRAN GALASSO:

We had "no wock (PH)-- knock" search warrant. And we went into the premises at that point. Arnold was by himself. His wife was out-- shopping or whatever she was doing. None of the older children were home. None of the children were home.

And we systematically started going through the house, looking for the items that we were authorized to look for, pictures, pornography, that sort of thing-- is-- is basically-- lists of students, records that might have been kept. At some point Elaine did come home-- and was extremely uncooperative.

TAPE #97

PG. 15

As a matter of fact, she tried to-- throw a punch at me, so she wound up getting arrested-- for an attempted assault that particular day. There were literally-- foot high stacks of pornography-- in-- in plain view-- all around the house.

She claimed that she didn't see anything like that. But they were all around for anybody-- to see. The computer classes had taken place on the lower level of the house. It was a high ranch kind of a design. So you'd go down about three or four steps, and there was a-- a fairly large-- probably in anybody else's house-- family room set up with-- (CLEARS THROAT) maybe-- 14, 16 computer stations. And that's where the kids were sit.

There were also-- there was also quite a lot of pornography on that level of the house. We were able to recover that. We were able to recover-- a lot of manuals. Basically-- they were teaching manuals, how to seduce-- young boys-- basically.

TAPE #97

PG. 16

That's-- that's exactly what they were titled,
How To Seduce Boys, How To-- How To Seduce
Children.

We req-- we recovered some naked pictures of--
boys. But the-- (BACKGROUND NOISE) tops of the
heads were always cut off. So we-- we weren't
able to identify any of those kids. We walked
out with-- all of the confiscated-- all of the
computers, all the equipment.

(OFF-MIKE CONVERSATION)

FRAN GALASSO:

What we found-- we found-- we found matching
disks-- and games to the games that Arnold had
given the children. Okay, basically, they were--
masturbation games, where-- a penis would appear--
- as part of a game, sort of like a Nintendo
game. And you could masturbate.

The idea was to get a s-- certain number of
points before you reached an orgasm. These were
the games that were being given to seven, eight,

TAPE #97

PG. 17

nine, ten year old kids. There were also a number of games and-- computer disks-- that-- in cartoon form, now, so that it would be more appealing to kids-- pictured relations between-- homosexuals, or even heterosexuals.

The purpose, if you were to go talk to somebody who's a real expert in the field of pedophilia, they would tell you that this, again, is a way of-- getting the kids accustomed to dealing with this kind of material, making them complicit so that if-- (DOG BARK) anybody finds out, they're guilty, or they're made to feel very guilty as-- as part of it. So it makes it less likely that they'll-- they'll tell anybody.

And this is what the pedophile-- this is what the abuser tells the kids. (DOG BARK) And-- to a child, this is what they told us. "Well, Arnold and Jessie would tell us that if we told somebody-- first of all, our parents (DOG BARK) wouldn't believe us." Because Arnold Friedman

TAPE #97

PG. 18

was an award winning-- (DOG BARK) teacher. He was-- all over the house also that day were-- plaques and-- (DOG BARK) newspaper articles written about him.

He had been-- given an award, "Computer Teacher of the Year." He also taught piano. He played in a band. He was-- he was fairly well known in the-- in the area. It's very hard for people to accept-- him as a-- as a pedophile at that particular time. Okay?

So first the kids are told, "They won't believe you. Because people will believe me. But look at what you've done. You're not supposed to be looking at these games. You're not supposed to be playing with things like this. You're not supposed to be doing the same things I'm doing to you, you're doing to your friends." Because he would encourage-- they would encourage, and sometimes-- force the children to abuse one another. (DOG BARK)

TAPE #97

PG. 19

They had games that they would play. One of the games was "hide the M&M's." They would hide the M&M's in each other's-- underwear. And then-- be forced to eat it out of the underwear, with the underwear and eat it out. They were forced to-- sometimes either Jessie or his father would give the children bubble gum. And they-- and Jessie or his father would ejaculate into the gar-- into-- bubble gum and the kids would chew on the gum.

They would-- they were-- they were encouraged to perform acts of-- oral sodomy-- with each other. And all the while that this was going on, they were taped. They were videotaped.

Unfortunately, we were not able to recover those videotapes. I-- (DOG BARK) believe that they were removed between the first and the second-- search warrant. And we were not-- we were never able to find out what happened-- to them.

TAPE #97

PG. 20

So another threat was-- "I have you doing all of this-- on tape. And if anything happens to me, if I get arrested, then these tapes are going to Channel 12 News. And you're all going to be on tape. And all of your friends at school, and your teachers, and everybody you know is gonna see you and see what you-- did."

And if that didn't work, for good measure, they were also told-- "If you tell-- I'll come to your house in the middle of the night, and I'll kidnap your baby sister, or I'll kill your parents." I mean it-- to-- to kids who were eight and nine and 11 and 12, these are very credible threats. You know, they believe all of this. And why shouldn't they?

I mean here's the-- here are these people have this incredible amount of control over them-- over this long period of time. And-- and many of them felt-- wrongly, but they still felt-- that they couldn't go to their parents. Why? Well--

TAPE #97

PG. 21

well, we asked them that.

We said, "Why didn't you, despite all of this-- why did you keep going to computer class every week?" "Well, because my parents made me. They didn't think it was a good idea for me to just start something and quit." Which is something all of us say (CHUCKLE) to our kids, right? "You wanna take piano lessons? That's great. But lemme tell you, you are going to do it for six months until you decide whether you like it. You can't just do it for two weeks and quit."

So-- they misunderstood the parent's motive in that. And they-- they truly believed it meant that they couldn't go to their parents. And Arnold would use that. "They-- aren't your parents sending you here every week? That's because they-- they know I'm a wonderful person and I'm a good teacher. They'll never believe you. You'll be in more trouble. You'll be arrested. You'll be-- ." threat-- that you could

TAPE #97

PG. 22

imagine.

We didn't have children telling us that-- that Arnold had slapped them around. But quite a number of the kids-- reported incidents of being slapped and having their hair pulled-- or their arms twisted by Jessie. He was, by far, the more violent one.

But anyway, to get back to that particular day, I'm-- just to give you a little background on it. At some point in time, David Friedman came. It was rather-- kind of-- kind of a-- a couple of hours later. And he was surprised-- by the whole-- the whole thing, the whole scene of what had been going on. By this time, there were-- there was just about every news organization you could-- you could name had-- had arrived on the scene. Because, of course, they all listen to the police radios. And they-- they (CHUCKLE) know when something big is going down. They were all there.

TAPE #97

PG. 23

And he came in. He had a duffel bag. And-- he kept trying to come into the house. And I kept telling him that he couldn't, that he had to leave, he wasn't-- wasn't allowed while we were searching. And finally he-- he came in for the last time. He bent down. I really thought he had a weapon in the duffel bag. Everybody kind of-- you know, reached for a-- a gun at one point.

He came out. And what he came out with was a pair of Fruit of the Loom underwear. White Fruit of the Loom. And he put it on his head. And he started prancing around in front of all of the television cameras and all of the-- detectives, flailing his arms in the air, saying, "Look at me! Look at me! I'm an asshole! I'm an asshole!"

And at that point, we just told him, "Look, either leave or you're under arrest." And he

TAPE #97

PG. 24

left, and-- that was the end of him for the day-- pretty much.

But that's-- that's the story of that day. Of course Arnold was taken into custody and-- (BACKGROUND NOISE) and arrested. Jessie-- was taken into custody-- and arrested. He came home at some point. And-- they were both-- fairly quiet. It was Elaine that was the boisterous one. She was taken out and she was arrested. So basically, the whole family, except for-- David and-- and-- and one older brother--

QUESTION:

Seth.

FRAN GALASSO:

-- Seth, right. They were not arrested.

QUESTION:

Yeah.

FRAN GALASSO:

That day. And that-- that was it for that day.

(AIRPLANE IN BACKGROUND)

TAPE #97

PG. 25

QUESTION:

What was your interpretation of--

(OFF-MIKE CONVERSATION)

FRAN GALASSO:

Well, it-- the other items that we were looking for-- obviously, any-- any kind of an item that had a sexual orientation, any kind of a sexual aide-- whatsoever. We also had reason to believe, from some of the children, that drugs may have been involved. So we also had authorization to search for anything drug related. We were able to find--

(BREAK IN TAPE)

(OFF-MIKE CONVERSATION)

QUESTION:

Oh, so in your sear-- you were saying you-- that you-- you found some-- drug related--

FRAN GALASSO:

We found-- we found-- other than the-- the-- the obvious things that I've talked to you about, the-- the videos, and the-- videos in terms of the (DOG BARK) pornographic videos, not the

TAPE #97

PG. 26

videos involving the children, the computer games that were pornographic in nature-- photographs, but always with the heads cut off. Lists, obviously, of-- kids who had been enrolled in these computer classes, right down to-- you know, money lists, also. How my-- how many had paid, how many owed.

We were able to find child sized dildos and sexual aides. We did find a hypodermic needle. That wa-- that was there. That was basically it for drugs. We-- we weren't able to recover any drugs. But there-- and-- and-- it was just the enormous amount. I think the most overwhelming thing was the enormous amount of child pornography.

QUESTION:

And where was that?

FRAN GALASSO:

That was the biggest thing.

QUESTION:

Where did you-- where-- was that something-- if I

TAPE #97

PG. 27

went in the house, would I have had to search for two hours to find that?

FRAN GALASSO:

No. You would just have to walk into the living room, and it'd be piled around the piano, which was-- you know, in there, just as if you were in my house here, you'd see it piled up. And-- if you pi-- if you just-- looked at it, you'd see the pictures on the front, you'd realize, "Gee-- I don't subscribe to this. You know, it's kind of an odd-- (LAUGHTER) odd thing-- (COUGH) (CLEARS THROAT) to subscribe to." (CLEARS THROAT)

QUESTION:

Yeah.

FRAN GALASSO:

And then of course to-- to be told that-- by the woman who's the-- who's the-- you know, the person that lives in the house, the wife of this fellow, that-- she was unaware of-- of this. (DOG BARK) And some of it was behind a couch.

TAPE #97

PG. 28

But you'd have to be somebody who never moved the couch, never cleaned. I mean it was not-- it wasn't hidden behind the couch. I think they were running out of space. You know, so there was-- (CHUCKLE) it was just piled up.

That she didn't know about it, that she never saw these things-- that she never looked or opened any of these books-- is-- crazy. At some point in time-- of course everybody's allowed their phone call to an attorney. And-- these people were, as well.

An attorney-- (CLEARS THROAT) showed up. I happen to know the attorney. I had-- worked with him-- before when he was a-- an assistant D.A.. And he wasn't really-- interesting in this kind of a case. He was there to see that their rights hadn't been violated that day. And-- then he-- he dropped the case. He passed it off to somebody else. It wasn't something he wanted to do.

TAPE #97

PG. 29

And-- some months-- after this was all over-- I saw him at a dinner. And-- we talked a little bit. And he said to me-- "When I heard-- Elaine say that-- she didn't know any of this existed," he said, "I thought of my own wife."

He said, "I'm married 35 years. My wife knows every sock that's-- that's in my drawer."

(CHUCKLE) He said, "I knew-- what we were dealing with." He-- he was overwhelmed-- by it.

She claimed-- you know, "What-- what are they arrested for? What are they being arrested for?" And we read the charges, one of which was sodomy. And she said, "Sodomy? What's sodomy?" She pretended not to know it. "Is that something you put under your hat?" That was her remark. "Is that something you put under your hat?"

QUESTION:

Now that night, obviously, was-- pretty dramatic for the family. How did you feel-- what did you

TAPE #97

PG. 30

learn about the family-- seeing how they reacted to that kind of situation? I mean just-- it's obviously a high pressure situation.

FRAN GALASSO:

Right.

QUESTION:

And the family didn't seem to pull together-- very well.

FRAN GALASSO:

No. There was also an additional incident involving the other son that night, Seth. We believe that it involved him. We have every reason to believe. What had happened is he had-- he had-- come home, I believe. He had seen what was going on. And he left. You know, he was-- he was the quiet one. He kinda left, unlike David.

We got a report later on that evening-- from a store owner-- owner of a-- a fancy woman's shop in Great Neck. And-- we went to interview her-- or sent somebody to interview her. And the--

TAPE #97

PG. 31

report was-- it was a glass-fronted store.

And-- she identified Seth from a photograph.

And-- said that-- he had come and exposed himself in the-- in the window of the store-- after he had left the house that evening. But she wouldn't press charges when she found out. She realized-- by that time, it was all over the radio. And she was very leery about getting involved or having her name become involved. So she backed out of-- pressing charges at that point. So I'm telling what her story was. Okay.

You could see that this wasn't exactly-- Fred McMurray in "My Three Sons," right? It's a-- I was-- struck as this being a very dysfunctional (CHUCKLE) family, obviously. And would have to-- you would have to wonder-- wouldn't you?

What kind of a family situation-- you would have that could produce-- this kind of-- crime-- involving this number of children? Involving the

TAPE #97

PG. 32

kinds of pornography that were found in the house in full view of everybody? What-- what might it be like to grow up in a household like this? I don't know. I can't-- even imagine-- what it would be.

But-- as time went on, we got-- we got some hints about that from-- talking to people who are experts in that field. Because the investigation didn't end at that point. That really was-- the arrest-- and the search of the house.

And then we went on. (CLEARS THROAT) Because we had litera-- literally at that point, dozens more interviews to do. (DOG BARK) And as we went on, charges were-- were added. New indictments were brought. More children were brought into the grand jury-- to testify, (DOG BARK) became also part of the case. (DOG BARK)

QUESTION:

And what kinds of things-- did you participate in a bunch of the interviews yourself? (DOG BARK)

TAPE #97

PG. 33

FRAN GALASSO:

I in-- I did in some of them. I-- I-- tried not to do too many of them, because time-- that's not really what my job was. I spent an awful lot of time dealing with the parents and-- trying to advise them as best as I could-- about getting some help for their kids (DOG BARK) and where they could turn to, and doing a lot of hand holding with them, a lot of meetings.

They eventually formed little parents' groups. And they met quite frequently-- after the arrests were made. (BACKGROUND NOISE) And then-- I think they were a great support to one another in terms of proceeding through the whole criminal justice-- system. Did a lot of meeting with school officials in Great Neck. (DOG BARK) That sort of thing.

QUESTION:

Yeah, that must have been very challenging for them. Did-- so the first-- child that was interviewed (DOG BARK) was interviewed by who?

TAPE #97

PG. 34

FRAN GALASSO:

By Detective Hatch and Detective Jones.

QUESTION:

And-- the-- and-- and-- for you personally, because obviously, you had to make your own determination at some point-- at what moment would you say you knew-- (NOISE) "Alright, this-- you know, worse than we thought," or, "It's-- you know, what we-- this is-- you know-- what we didn't wanna hear," or something like that? What moment did you know something was really up?

(DOG BARK)

FRAN GALASSO:

Oh, I knew when those detectives came back and told me what I related to you. I knew that this was gonna be more than one kid. You know, it-- it very much sounded like a whole lot of the training that we had been put through as detectives, is that-- what to look for in these kinds of cases. I remember--

QUESTION:

Tell me about-- tell me about the training.

TAPE #97

PG. 35

FRAN GALASSO:

Well, we basically went over to New York-- we did a lot of training at the New York City-- Academy and John Jay Academy. Also did some training with-- Roy Hazelwood (PH) was a profiler for the FBI, and an expert in criminal profiling and-- and this kind of behavior.

Worked with-- (DOG BARK) some of the lead supervisors and detectives from the New York City Sex Crimes Squads. We did a lot of the training. And the training is a continuous kind of thing. But when you first go into a squad like this, you-- you go to school for a couple weeks solid-- to give you some sort of an overview.

Because for an awful lot of people-- and I know-- I had a little bit of a background because I came from the court system, and I came from Juvenile Aid Bureau. So I was used to seeing sex abuse-- not on this scale-- much more-- an intra-familial kind of-- abuse, step-fathers, and people living

TAPE #97

PG. 36

in (CLEARS THROAT) the house.

So you get a good grounding in-- in what's involved with a pedophile. And you get a lot-- and you get to see a lot of cases of serial pedophiles. And-- believe me when I tell you that if you've seen one operate, you pretty much have seen the-- how they operate. And you-- you know that they're not going to stop with one child.

So I knew that we had-- we probably had a-- a fairly big-- case on our hands. And-- we just had to do decide how we could proceed. You always wanna be very careful about how you-- proceed. Because the one thing-- that you worry about-- I know I worried about it all the time-- is-- just charging somebody with this kind of a crime is enough to ruin their lives.

So you wanna make sure-- that you have enough evidence-- and that you're convinced-- that

TAPE #97

PG. 37

you're making a good charge.

QUESTION:

Right. And-- what were the steps that you went through to satisfy your own standard-- to know for your own s-- s-- you know, for yourself?

FRAN GALASSO:

We wanted to make sure-- well, we-- we were lucky in that we were able to re-- recover so much physical evidence. And that so much of the evidence matched what the kids had. So we had that. We had the pornography that was there.

We had the kids detailing to us, and basically telling us, "Look, I was in Tuesday afternoon's class. We met from three to four o'clock. Also in my class was-- Johnny and Joey and Adam and this one and that one. And here's what-- happened to each of them." We had that recorded in statements.

Now when you begin an investigation like this, you wanna keep your witnesses separate. Okay?

TAPE #97

PG. 38

So in the initial pha--

(BREAK IN TAPE)

(OFF-MIKE CONVERSATION)

FRAN GALASSO:

Well certainly after that first night, I wasn't ready to go out and make an arrest. You wanna make-- make sure you have more than that. You wanna see how many victims potentially you have.

As the case progressed, we put these teams together, we knew we had many. And we did it-- quickly enough so that we were able to corroborate. If Johnny told us such and such had happened to Joey, Joey and Adam and-- A, B, C, D-- the kids corroborated one another.

QUESTION:

You were saying a minute ago that you-- that one of the things you wanna do (UNINTEL) not putting the kids together, or--

FRAN GALASSO:

Keep them apart-- as much as possible. And amazingly-- although the parents started to talk

TAPE #97

PG. 39

to one another-- the kids would not talk to the parents. Did not want-- even after they revealed what they had to reveal to the detectives, they frequently wouldn't say very much to their parents, nor would they say very much initially to their therapists.

They didn't talk to each other about it. I don't know if they ever really did. Because we'd ask them that frequently. "Did you talk to so and so?" "No." "Why?" "I don't know." You know how kids get. "I don't know." I think it was a source-- you know, embarrassment, and--

(OVERTALK)

FRAN GALASSO:

--Awkwardness. And also (BACKGROUND NOISE), never quite (DOG BARK) being sure, you know, if-- if Arnold and Jessie would come back and get them. Because after all, they made bail, they were out.

QUESTION:

Right.

TAPE #97

PG. 40

FRAN GALASSO:

They-- they were around. They could see them.

QUESTION:

Other rules or instructions that you gave your detectives saying, "You're going out and getting these statements." You know, were there-- were there procedures that you-- that you were trained in following? And what-- what were those kinds of--

FRAN GALASSO:

Well, it-- not only are there procedures you-- you're trained in following, which is, A, you don't ask any leading cl-- a question. You don't give the kid the answer. You-- you wanna hear the whole story from start to finish from-- from the child.

We decided early on, because the-- the parents were such an important part of this, that we would talk first only to parents. And we spent a lot of time doing that.

TAPE #97

PG. 41

So that we could win their confidence and-- and make them feel that we were really people-- who had their-- not only because we wanted to make an arrest, but we-- we truly did have their kids' best interest in-- at-- at heart. We-- we really did realize-- the emotional problems that kids like this can have down the road. So we wanted to see if we could work with them in-- in doing that.

So we would work with the parents-- first. Get their par-- permission. Obviously, no child was (DOG BARK) ever interviewed without their parents' permission. And we would-- we would go from there. So all of these interviews were always done in the evening-- which-- which also-- also created a problem for us.

You know, you were going (DOG BARK) after dinner. Get a couple of hours in. Oftentimes, you'd have to go back two, three, four times. Because the kids would tell you piece of the story and then

TAPE #97

PG. 42

say-- you'd say, "Do you have more?" "Yes."

"Will you tell me if I come back again?" "Okay."

QUESTION:

Right, so they wanted to do it pieces. Yeah.

FRAN GALASSO:

They had to do it in piece. It was almost too much-- you know, for them. And again, you just really let them tell the story. You don't-- you know, you might ask, "Well, how 'bout-- Johnny? He was in your class. Did you see-- anything happen to him. Not-- not, "Isn't it true that Arnold touched Johnny." You don't do that. You know, you let the kid-- tell the story.

But aside from those safeguards, I mean I had people looking at me, also. You know, I had to report every day to-- my inspector and show him the statements. And he had to report every day to the chief of detectives. And I frequently had to report to the chief of detectives, and frequently, to the commissioner of police. Because these are-- such high profile cases. And

TAPE #97

PG. 43

everybody wants to be very, very careful.

And of course-- the whole time you also have a-- the assistant district attorneys-- who, in effect, acts as another level of supervisor.

QUESTION:

Now-- when you go to the-- when you go to a parent with this kind of thing-- (BACKGROUND NOISE) how would you approach the parent-- (BACKGROUND NOISE) to-- to-- you know, in-- in a way that wouldn't just completely freak the parent out, but would still--

(OFF-MIKE CONVERSATION)

QUESTION:

When you go to a parent with something like this, you know-- how did you know? You needed to obviously go to a couple of kids first, (DOG BARK) (UNINTEL) have something to tell the parents. Cuz otherwise, you go to the parents and say, "Well, we suspect this, but we don't know." How did you deal with the parent side of it? (DOG BARK)

TAPE #97

PG. 44

FRAN GALASSO:

Well, I can't tell you exactly how they dealt-- how detectives Hatch and Jones dealt with the first-- parent. They were home. They-- I believe what they said was that they were investigating the computer school. And they weren't quite sure-- what it was about at that point. Okay?

Parents gave permission. And then they were-- the parents were informed-- what had developed. With that-- for instance, with that first case-- (DOG BARK) both parents were attorneys, as I remember. They shut us down completely. Allowed no interviews with the-- with the older boys.

I went on the first initial (DOG BARK) interviews with a couple of my detectives. And-- we explained. We sat down with the parents-- and told them. At that point in time, there also had appeared a couple of small newspaper articles about the postal delivery-- about the arrest for

TAPE #97

PG. 45

the receipt of pornography.

QUESTION:

Right.

FRAN GALASSO:

So that had spread around a little bit.

QUESTION:

Small town.

FRAN GALASSO:

Small town. People-- lotta people knew about it. Parents were very upset. Obviously. Very upsets to hear that there was actual abuse going on, and that their child might be a-- a victim. And what we'd say is, "Well, I don't know. But-- you know, we'd like to talk to them. We'd like to find out. We'll tell you everything-- that they-- that they say. And if there's a problem, you know, you wanna get them some help."

And we would also tell-- the children. One of the biggest things we would do is tell the children, "We're gonna sit down, you and I, together now. And we're gonna-- we're gonna tell

TAPE #97

PG. 46

Mom and Dad what happened. Because Mom and Dad need to be able to get you some help. You're not gonna be in trouble with them. They're not going to be angry."

And we-- we would explain this part of it with the parents, too. How these kids were seduced. The fear that was used to keep them-- in this system. And that-- that had to be the worst-- part of it.

These kids were under-- enormous-- s-- you know, just enormous stress living under this, and being afraid all the time that somebody was going to find out. We--

QUESTION:

What were some of the manifestations of that kind of stress that the kids were under? FRAN

GALASSO:

Well, we had one boy who was about-- (SIGH) 11 or 12 years old-- who began to lose all his hair. And his parents didn't know why. (BACKGROUND

TAPE #97

PG. 47

NOISE) You know, they brought him to a doctor. They-- they (DOG BARK) tested him for everything. (DOG BARK) And they couldn't figure out why this kid (DOG BARK), at 12 years old, was losing his hair. (DOG BARK) And he wasn't pulling it out. His hair was falling out.

We had numerous (DOG BARK) kids who had-- changes in their grades (DOG BARK) at school, which is a-- typical symptom, you know, that-- that-- social workers will tell you to look for. Kids who have-- (DOG BARK) were A students, all of sudden (DOG BARK) their-- their grades are dropping. (DOG BARK)

We had kids who reverted back to soiling their-- their underwear, having bathroom accidents. That sort of thing.

QUESTION:

Yeah.

FRAN GALASSO:

A lot of that.

TAPE #97

PG. 48

QUESTION:

Wasn't there one-- I think there was one kid who--
- reported having-- blood in his underwear,
something like that.

FRAN GALASSO:

Yes.

QUESTION:

Tell me about that one.

FRAN GALASSO:

That little boy-- he was the-- he was one of the
youngest kids. He was seven years old. And he
was forced into anal sodomy. So he had blood in
his-- in his underwear. He was afraid to tell
his mother and father.

So he-- took the underwear-- he told us he hid
it. And we-- he couldn't remember where he put
it, and whether he'd put it in the garbage. (DOG
BARK) It was never found. His-- his mother, I
don't think, found it.

And-- (DOG BARK) he told his dog. He told his

TAPE #97

PG. 49

dog, Hershey, (DOG BARK) what was-- what was happening. Because that was the only one he could talk to. (DOG BARK) Before he talked to the-- the detectives in the case.

So these-- you know, you have real-- I mean you're a parent, I'm a parent. You have to-- put yourself in-- in the-- shoes of these parents-- to-- to even imagine how you would feel-- knowing that-- you-- every week are bringing your kid-- voluntarily to this kind of an environment.

And maybe even your kid is one of the ones who said, "You know what, Dad? I don't wanna come here." "Oh no, you can't quit. You gotta-- finish it out." Think of how you would feel when you find out what was really going on there. I mean the guilt must be-- just-- you know, unimaginable.

I mean I-- I just can't tell you how bad you end up feeling for the parents as well as the kids.

TAPE #97

PG. 50

You know.

QUESTION:

Did-- the first kid that you went to, the parents were law-- the-- that kid's parents were lawyers? How did you get-- penetrate the parents to get the first statement out of the little kid?

FRAN GALASSO:

You would really have to be talking to either Detective Hatch or Detective Jones.

QUESTION:

Yeah.

FRAN GALASSO:

I mean I-- I think part of it was that the parents weren't sure what they were there for. They weren't-- sure whether this guy had been involved in some sort of a fraud, where there was-- there could have been a health violation. I mean it could have been a-- a number of things.

They allowed the interview. And then when they found out what it was, they-- they just felt that they-- they didn't want their kid testifying in

TAPE #97

PG. 51

court. They didn't want any part of it.

They-- they felt they wanted to deal with it privately, get a hold of a therapist, and-- deal with it that-- many parents did that. They were-- they weren't the only ones.

QUESTION:

Were there other parents who said, "Well, this happened, but I don't wanna come forward, or I don't wanna be a part of it?"

FRAN GALASSO:

Yes. There was-- there were many that did that.

QUESTION:

How-- what do you-- what-- in terms of the scope of the-- case, you know, how many kids do you think were involved? How many parents that-- you know. (DOG BARK)

FRAN GALASSO:

Well, we-- we investigated-- (SIGH) only the kids that were contemporaneous with-- with that particular time, basically. So we're ta-- I don't know how many kids now. And-- there were

TAPE #97

PG. 52

maybe-- anywhere from-- eight to-- (DOG BARK) 14
and (DOOR CREAKS) 15 kids in a class every day of
the week, and Saturday, and vacation.

But some of the kids-- went more than once a
week. So multiply that out-- and you get a
figure. We went back maybe the year or two
before that to a couple of classes that we pieced
together. But basically-- these--

(OFF-MIKE CONVERSATION)

(BREAK IN TAPE)

* *(END OF SIDE A)* * *

* * *(SIDE B BLANK)* * *

* * *(END OF TRANSCRIPT)* * *

HIT THE GROUND RUNNING FILMS

"FRAN GALASSO / ANTHONY SQUEGLIA"

INTERVIEW WITH: FRAN GALASSO

CORRESPONDENT: (NOT IDENTIFIED)

PRODUCER: ROGEN

TAPE #98

TRANSCRIBER'S NOTE: DOG BARKING IN BACKGROUND THROUGHOUT MUCH OF INTERVIEW. NOTED WHERE IT'S PARTICULARLY LOUD.

(OFF-MIC CONVERSATION)

QUESTION:

(DOG BARKING) Maybe-- just-- one thing that we-- that we didn't cover very clearly is, what do you think-- what-- how did Jesse (PH) get involved in what Arnold (PH) was doing based on your-- recollection? How did this all kind of get rolling on (PH) the computer school and how did Jesse get brought into it? And what was his role?

FRAN GALASSO:

Okay. Well, I'm not sure how it all got-- I can give you a pretty good guess. From Jesse's words

TAPE #98

PG. 2

and from what we can piece together from knowledge of pedophiles and pedophilia-- what we believed happened is that Arnold was engaged in abusing his own children.

He had a preference for pre-adolescent boys. Doesn't mean that he wouldn't abuse somebody else. But that was clearly his preference, just as your preference might be for women with blonde hair. Doesn't mean you wouldn't go out with a redhead. But-- that's-- that's just the way that it operates.

The computer school basically started when Jesse reached puberty. Jesse became an aide in the computer classes after school. He wasn't the only one, by the way. He involved some of his friends, one of whom also got arrested as a result of-- of this case. Many more, we believe were involved, but did not get arrested because they were not able to be identified and because of the number of years that had-- had gone on.

TAPE #98

PG. 3

The children were able to pick them out-- of lineups and yearbooks and things of that nature.

And those who were, we did have people who were, and-- and their parents wouldn't allow them to proceed. So we weren't able to use them. Or we probably would've had at least two more arrests in this case I would say-- at least, I think.

QUESTION:

And how-- now how did-- and how did Jesse's role in the computer school evolve as you-- as you say (PH).

FRAN GALASSO:

He became a-- an aide to his father. So he became involved in the abuse of these children as well. And we believe he was well schooled. He'd been abused himself. And he just continued. The exception being that he was by far more violent. He was the one that they all said would do most of the threatening, would do the arm-twisting, would do the slapping, that sort of thing.

TAPE #98

PG. 4

QUESTION:

And at one I think they even talked about-- kids being--

(OFF-MIC CONVERSATION)

QUESTION:

At one point-- there was a-- a description of-- one of the kids get-- getting his head smashed against the wall or something like that. Do you remember that?

FRAN GALASSO:

I remember several of the kids reporting things of that nature. So I'm not sure which-- you know which incident you're referring to. (BARKING) Many-- many said that they were pushed or shoved, or had their arms twisted and hair pulled and you know those kinds of activities, when they weren't cooperating, when they held back a little bit. (BARKING) There were several children who were singled out for what we believe was even worse abuse.

Because they were singled out and brought to

TAPE #98

PG. 5

rooms upstairs in the house by Jesse. And we think the abuse to them was probably worse. One was a little boy that I told you about-- who when he would describe some of what happened to him and to-- (BARKING) and to his friends-- would throw himself against the wall. Just-- (BARKING) he'd literally be beating himself up as he-- as he was describing the events. He was one of those kids.

QUESTION:

And-- and the-- well how (BARKING) would you describe-- based on the-- the testimony that you were able to read or hear, what would you say happened in a typical class? What went on that was inappropriate in a typical class?

FRAN GALASSO:

We'd often ask the kids to describe a typical class to us. And they-- and they would almost always mirror one another. They'd start out doing computer work, taking out some work or whatever it that they (BARKING) were teaching kids on computers in those days. I don't even

TAPE #98

PG. 6

know what it was-- mostly games, I would susp-- I would suspect.

And then the magazines would be distributed (BARKING) or the pornographic games would be distributed where Arnold or Jesse or both would walk up to various children, would sit down. If you were going to be the first one abused on a pit-- on a particular day, he would pull up a chair and sit next to you.

Maybe it would start with his arm around your shoulder or on your leg, and gradually move it up, touching private parts. Maybe he'd ask you to get up. He'd unzipper. He'd ask for oral sex. We'd (PH) per-- perform oma-- oral sex on the kids. It just-- it was just generally a free for all. Because it was-- everybody could-- could see what was-- what was going on. And very often they would participate in these-- these sort of mass games in-- in the classroom.

TAPE #98

PG. 7

QUESTION:

Yeah. Next question-- the videotapes-- this was videotaped-- the kids talked about that. You talk about what--

(OVERTALK)

FRAN GALASSO:

Jesse did, too.

QUESTION:

--right.

FRAN GALASSO:

Jesse talked about it. (BARKING)

QUESTION:

Can you talk a little bit about-- about what happened? Because they've never found--

FRAN GALASSO:

You want me to let him-- you want to let him in? Would that help you?

(OFF-MIC CONVERSATION)

QUESTION:

But can we talk about the videotapes and what you think happened--

TAPE #98

PG. 8

MALE VOICE:

Oh yeah, how did you find out that there were videotapes happening? And then-- and then what efforts-- obviously you know it was hard to find the videotapes.

FRAN GALASSO:

All the children-- virtually every single one that-- that (BARKING) detailed any kind of abuse at all-- told us they were videotaped, two (PH) a child. So (BARKING) you know at the beginning you're either thinking, "Well there's nothing in the camera and it's just another way of frightening the children."

But these are valuable to pedophiles. These are very valuable tapes. So it didn't make sense that there wouldn't be anything in the-- in the-- in the videotape recorder. (BARKING) And then of course later Jesse admitted that there were tapes.

And the other person that we arrested, Ross

TAPE #98

PG. 9

Goldstein (PH), told us about-- about them. So there a great-- there were a great many witnesses telling us about the videotapes. And what was videotape was what was ever going on on that particular day. That's basically what it was.

QUESTION:

And none were ever found.

FRAN GALASSO:

None were ever found. None were ever found.

QUESTION:

Do you have a theory on that?

FRAN GALASSO:

Oh yeah. I think they were removed-- not found in the first search. Who knows, they may have been in the back of a closet somewhere, stored behind a-- a fake wall. I don't know. And then later on we were told by-- by people who work in-- not postal, but-- other federal agents who deal in child pornography back and forth that-- that a master copy of that sort of abuse might be worth \$50,000. One-- one videotape. So, no. We-- we could potentially be talking (LAUGHTER) about

TAPE #98

PG. 10

hundreds that were made here.

QUESTION:

And did you-- after that case and for the years after that that you were working in the police department, did you continue to look for 'em?

FRAN GALASSO:

I looked all the time. We put notices in police magazines-- teletypes that went out to different agencies. Every time we heard or read about a big case being broken anywhere in the area I would send detectives to view the tapes. I had basically sent out a description of-- of what other investigators could look-- look for-- what the room looked-- looked like, descriptions of the kids, the ages, the kind of paneling that they might find in the room. But nothing ever materialized.

QUESTION:

At one point there's some discussion that Jesse went-- went-- before Jesse-- pled, he went to visit his father in jail, and-- and supposedly tried to get some of this material or something.

TAPE #98

PG. 11

I don't know if you're-- if you're-- if you know about that.

FRAN GALASSO:

I don't know whether-- whether he just went to visit him, to get the-- I was very adamant with-- with Jesse's attorney. I did not want-- this plea bargain to-- to take place. I thought that we would be very successful at trial. I was not worried about damaging the children psychologically, bringing them to trial. Because there is a great body of evidence that suggests that it's actually therapeutic for the kids to go to trial, that they-- they finally get to get up there, tell what happened, and point to the people that did it, and say that, "Those are the guys."

And now they're going to see them get punished as a result of that. Plus, they were already in therapy. Many of the parents wanted to go to trial, and had been very supportive of that. But it-- it-- it became increasingly apparent that--

TAPE #98

PG. 12

that a plea was going to (BARKING) be taken on this case.

I at least wanted to recover the tapes, the master tapes-- not that there wouldn't be other copies out there, but I wanted to be able to say to the parents, "Look, we got them. You know here they are. We're going to destroy them." And I-- I thought that would've brought them some measure of-- of comfort. And-- I had it-- also-- another motive in the back of my mind. I-- I thought that recovering some of these tapes might bring us to another ring of pedophiles, the people who would buy or-- or send for these tapes.

QUESTION:

Right.

FRAN GALASSO:

So I wanted very much to make that a part of the plea bargaining agreement, that he had to come up with those tapes. But I think what happened was-- he just sort of made a luke warm attempt, if

TAPE #98

PG. 13

any, to retrieve some of these things. We never really got any information about who might have gotten them.

I-- I believe to this day that he knows-- that Jesse knows. That he-- he was involved in-- in literally everything that his father did. And I believe that-- there may have been behind the scenes there some sort of a loose video club exchange-- these things. And that he-- he may have known who the members were.

QUESTION:

(UNINTEL).

FRAN GALASSO:

They had a post office box. We watched that for awhile. Everything stopped at that point and time. So I think there was enough hints that there might have been something like that going on.

QUESTION:

Now-- tell me-- you mentioned Ross Goldstein. How did Ross get involved? Or how did you find

TAPE #98

PG. 14

out about Ross? And then tell me how you fo--
found him and picked him up.

FRAN GALASSO:

Well what happened was, we-- we heard from the
kids that we interviewed that there were other
people involved, that-- Jesse wasn't the only
helper that his father had. There were another
of other peo--

(BREAK IN TAPE)

QUESTION:

(BARKING) We were talking about Ross and how--
you were saying the kids had (CLEARS THROAT) said
there were other people involved. And then how
did you figure out Ross was--

FRAN GALASSO:

That it was Ross Goldstein? (BARKING) One or
two of the kids knew his name was Ross. They
knew Ross. They knew that name. (BARKING) Now
he hadn't been involved recently. They'd been
going back, let's say a year prior towards (PH)
discovery of the whole case. And how it was that
he had dropped out of the whole thing, (BARKING)

TAPE #98

PG. 15

I'm not really sure.

I don't remember now at the time. So what we did was we got a bunch of-- Great Neck (PH) High School yearbooks. And we had some of the kids go through them separately. And (UNINTEL) would say, "That's him. That's the guy." (BARKING) So that's how we found about Ross Goldstein and the other people involved. There were other people.

QUESTION:

And what was Ross like? What kind of person was he? And (BARKING) could people sort of say like, "Oh, he was-- he was-- he was kind of different than they were? He went to a special school," or something like that?

FRAN GALASSO:

I don't recall if he went to a special school. (BARKING) Jesse did. Jesse went to an alternative school that Great Neck has-- which I get the feeling is for kids who either have different learning problems with some emotional--

TAPE #98

PG. 16

mostly emotional problems. I don't recall if Ross went there or not.

I-- I really don't remember that. He lived really just a few doors away from Jesse. They were friends. They-- were involved in some music together-- listening to music and-- and that sort of thing. And Ross and some of these other kids-- other-- potential perpetrators-- were involved in a band as well.

That's how we initially found out about them also-- linked them together through this band. We brought Ross and a couple of the other people in. And we spoke to them very extensively. (BARKING) Ross's mother came in and spoke to me, and broke down and cried. Ross hadn't admitted anything at that point. But she came in and spoke to me and broke down and cried.

And she said, (BARKING) "I-- I knew there was something going on with my son. I didn't want

TAPE #98

PG. 17

him involved with Jesse." Of course by now the story (BARKING) had broken. She knew what Jesse was involved in. She-- she kinda secretly feared that-- that he might know something or-- or be involved in some way. And this was in essence confirming it.

They retained counsel for him. And-- (DOOR OPENING) he and his counsel and his parents made a decision-- to cooperate with us, to fill in whatever blanks we had left in the-- in the story about who-- how the whole thing operated. And that's what happened. And again, we took precautions with him. We had by this time of course had numerous photographs of the children that we had.

So-- we showed him some-- some of the kids. He was able to name by name-- first and last name-- every one of these kids. He was able to reconstruct the classes that they were in, so it was obvious that he had-- you know a very

TAPE #98

PG. 18

intimate knowledge of-- of what went on.

QUESTION:

The photographs that you showed him were photographs that were taken later, or photographs--

FRAN GALASSO:

We took--

QUESTION:

-- that were-- that-- the police took.

FRAN GALASSO:

We took-- or-- or were given to us by the parents-- school photographs, that thinking thing.

QUESTION:

Right. And what was his story? Ross said, "Yes, I was involved"? Or that--

FRAN GALASSO:

Ross basically confirmed-- just about everything that the-- that the children told us, class by class. He was involved with Jesse. He was a-- he was a friend-- a friend of Jesse. They did some drugs together. That was initially how he

TAPE #98

PG. 19

got involved in this. There was some amount of-- as I recall-- some amount of a homosexual overtone to the whole thing also.

QUESTION:

One of the things that-- you know I-- I know that there was this letter, the famous letter that Arnold Friedman (PH) wrote to the-- the open letter to the community center-- what really happened-- which never got published anywhere. He couldn't get any-- you know any (UNINTEL).

One of the things that I-- I'm trying to get a copy of the letter-- but one of the things that I-- I understand it said was that he had never met Ross Goldstein in his life. And even to this day, he was in prison, he'd still never met him. What-- what was his-- did Ross Goldstein talk about Arnold?

FRAN GALASSO:

Yeah. Sure. Ross talked a lot about Arnold. We-- I don't-- I don't know that we ever talked to Arnold about Ross, though. Arnold-- we know--

TAPE #98

PG. 20

had an attorney obviously from the beginning-- never would speak with us, nor to Jesse. Okay, first time I actually ever heard Jesse speak was on the Geraldo Rivera interview that he did with him. We did do an interview with Arnold post conviction. But I don't recall mentioning-- Ross Goldstein or his mentioning Ross Goldstein. That wasn't the purpose of the interview.

QUESTION:

But presumably, he must have met him at--

(OVERTALK)

FRAN GALASSO:

Oh absolutely he met him. Sure. Absolutely. They were there together on-- you know-- (COUGHS) dozens and dozens of occasions.

QUESTION:

The-- getting back to the issue of-- Ross's role-- in the investigation-- Ross became a pretty important witness--

FRAN GALASSO:

Right.

TAPE #98

PG. 21

QUESTION:

--presumably. Tell me-- tell me a little bit about that.

FRAN GALASSO:

Well, in essence it's always good. You know you have to realize at that point I'm thinking, "Trial." Okay, I'm thinking, "We want to get everything that we can possibly get if we go to trial." So Ross becomes a valuable witness if that becomes the case.

Because-- you know that-- defense attorneys are going to try to do what they can to destroy the children's credibility as much as they can, and the police credibility if they can. So they have this extra person who's actually an adult witness now to it, corroborate not only the children but your whole investigation basically.

He's-- he's also able to say, "Yeah, I would help set up the-- pornographic-- you know give out the pornographic-- games to the kids." He was able

TAPE #98

PG. 22

to describe all of that. So-- I felt that it just made-- made the case that much stronger. An already strong case-- I thought we had an already very strong case-- made it that much stronger.

QUESTION:

Why do you think the case didn't go to trial?

FRAN GALASSO:

Let's cut this off for second.

QUESTION:

Okay.

FRAN GALASSO:

Okay?

QUESTION:

Or you know-- or you know what? Let's leave--

(BREAK IN TAPE)

QUESTION:

So what-- yeah, so what-- what stopped the case from going to trial?

FRAN GALASSO:

Well, I think-- I think-- basically there was a disagreement between-- how the-- how the DA felt this case should proceed, and how the police

TAPE #98

PG. 23

department felt the case should-- proceed. And the DA felt that he had a conviction in his pocket. He had already convicted the father. He had a plea on his son. And the agreement was for a minimum of six, maximum 18 year sentence.

He felt that, "Well, we'd be sparing the kids the-- the trauma of testifying ultimately. That would be good. And we'd be sparing ourselves lots of res-- court re-- resources-- money-- you know you j-- you just don't go up there with the kids and the witnesses. You also bring in expert testimony from child psychologists, from people who work in these particular field. It's-- becomes quite involved."

We felt-- very strongly in the opposite direction. We thought it would be good for the kids to testify. We had kids and parents ready, willing, and able to testify. I think that we would've gotten a conviction in this case. It was a very very strong case, unusually strong.

TAPE #98

PG. 24

Normally you don't have physical evidence. Like we didn't have physical evidence in terms of the-- the children-- damage to actual physique of the-- of the child-- organs of the child. But you normally don't walk into a case like this with piles of pornography, with videos, with witnesses who've witnesses these events-- are normally done in great privacy. Right? That wasn't the case here.

So we felt that we would be successful with the case. And that instead of the six to 18-- we could've gotten for Jesse a minimum of 25 to life, which-- I think all of us who were involved-- all of the police department people who worked on this case, and worked very-- let me tell you very hard on this case-- we all came away. And this-- this was our basic fear.

We weren't so much worried about Arnold, because he was older when he even went to prison. And he wasn't the violent person. Our concern was with

TAPE #98

PG. 25

Jesse. And we felt, "You know what? He'll probably do more than six years." And as you know he has. He's done what-- 10, 11, 12 years? Okay-- almost 12 years. But he will come out. And when he comes out, he's going to be that much more violent.

And he's always going to know the way he got caught the first time was that somebody told. And we all felt that he's capable-- he could be very easily capable of murdering a child, that the next child that's abused may not be so lucky to live to tell. And we all know that people become more violent in-- in jail.

I don't know if he's ever participated in-- in any kind of rehabilitation or-- psychological counseling. The rate of recidivism on these people is very very high. Most of these programs have not been successful. So--

(OFF-MIC CONVERSATION)

TAPE #98

PG. 26

QUESTION:

So you were saying, you want to see him put away.

FRAN GALASSO:

Yeah, we thought we had-- we had an excellent chance-- as good as it gets-- for sending him away for pretty much the rest of his life. And-- and protecting an awful lot of youngsters-- in the future. You know and--

QUESTION:

Okay. Speaking of-- of which, the-- obviously there's this on-going relationship with the-- with David (PH). How did you find out about David's line of work, for example? How did that start to-- (PHONE RING)

(OFF-MIC CONVERSATION)

QUESTION:

Yeah, you were-- I'm sorry. You were saying at some point you learned what-- David did for a living.

FRAN GALASSO:

We learned that-- David was a clown-- a-- a child's entertainer and went by the name of

TAPE #98

PG. 27

"Silly Billy." And-- at that time I believe he was pretty much headquartered in the South Street Seaport-- area. And we did conduct a general investigation.

He had no arrest record. But we did not have-- reports of his having participated with his father and Jesse at-- with those children that we investigated. We didn't have that. We were-- we were suspicious because of his background. We became more suspicious after Jesse admitted about the abuse in his own household, just knowing the kinds of backgrounds of-- of how people become pedophiles. But we didn't have an actual complaint.

QUESTION:

And how did you react when you found out, "Oh this guy is you know, entertaining children for a living"? What was your response to that?

FRAN GALASSO:

Well it was-- not surprising. (NOISE) Given-- given the circumstances it's not surprising. I

TAPE #98

PG. 28

would suspect that there's a problem in that family. And-- if-- if-- and I can't accuse David of being a pedophile, because I don't know for sure. But if he is, then it would be very logical-- that he would need to have constant access to children. What better way.

QUESTION:

Than?

FRAN GALASSO:

Than being a child's entertainer and having children around him constantly.

QUESTION:

Yeah. The-- if you were sort of still on the job now, would you feel like this is something I want to keep my eye on? Or--

FRAN GALASSO:

Yes. I'd be keeping my eye on him. Jeff (PH), now you have to realize that pedophiles can go for years before they're caught. Arnold-- I-- I don't recall exactly how old-- he was in his 50s when-- when he got arrested, when we arrested him. Had never been arrested. Had been abusing

TAPE #98

PG. 29

children since his own adolescence. And he told us that. He was never caught all those years.

QUESTION:

And how did you learn that?

FRAN GALASSO:

He told us.

QUESTION:

In the-- Q-- in the Q & A or something?

FRAN GALASSO:

He did-- we did a Q & A after everything was over, just before he went-- to prison. Our agreement was we wouldn't charge him any-- with any further crimes if we discovered any-- if he would agree to give us a Q & A and detail all of the children-- as many as he could remember-- that he had abused, so that we could approach the parents of these children and see about getting them some help.

So he-- he told us that since he was 13 or 14 years old when he had been abused-- he told us that he had been abused by an older male at that

TAPE #98

PG. 30

age-- and subsequently that-- that sort of fueled his interest. And-- and he began abusing younger children from that point on.

QUESTION:

And did it on many--

FRAN GALASSO:

That--

QUESTION:

-- occasions-- whenever he got the chance.

FRAN GALASSO:

Whenever he got the chance-- not only in the computer school, but-- in people's homes. Because I think I mentioned to you-- gave piano lessons. Sometimes he would to somebody's home, sit next to the kid at the piano. The parent would maybe go to the store to pick something up. And he's sodomize the child while the child was taking a piano lesson.

QUESTION:

(UNINTEL) .

FRAN GALASSO:

And so he missed no opportunity.

TAPE #98

PG. 31

QUESTION:

I mean everybody's kids go to piano lessons--

FRAN GALASSO:

Right.

QUESTION:

--so everybody's--

(OVERTALK)

FRAN GALASSO:

Right. (LAUGHTER) Piano lessons--

QUESTION:

--right--

FRAN GALASSO:

-- computer schools--

QUESTION:

I want my kid to be given piano lessons--

FRAN GALASSO:

Right.

QUESTION:

--by a crippled old woman.

FRAN GALASSO:

Right. (LAUGHTER) How many tim-- I mean think about it, I mean I have done that. I have--

TAPE #98

PG. 32

I've-- I've had from time to time a tutor or whatever for my child. And I said, would you mind if I just run and-- I have to pick up a loaf of bread or-- or whatever it-- it--

QUESTION:

Yeah.

FRAN GALASSO:

-- might be. You know we all do these things. And-- the horrible-- you see the worst part of this is-- that it makes you realize that your kid could be a victim. I mean all of us-- you know you-- you get this very protected feeling. And I-- I think this was a big part of the problem with the parents in Great Neck.

Basically is a very very affluent community. Most of these people could give their kids the best of everything. And that's not saying that they didn't love their kids, or they didn't spend time with their kids. They did all of the right things. And they still couldn't protect their kids. No. And-- and if you work in this field

TAPE #98

PG. 33

for a long time, if you're a psychologist or you're a police officer, and-- and this is all you see, you begin to realize that-- you know that also.

I-- I can remember being so frustrated one day coming home. And I-- I said to my son who was maybe-- oh, he was in high school at the time-- I said to him, "John (PH), you gotta tell me, if you were one of these kids in Great Neck, would you come home and tell me? Would you tell me if this was happening?"

Because I just had to figure out what goes on in a kid's mind, you know, if they're-- they're living with you as a parent. You're protecting them. You're doing everything for them. How is it anybody else could get in and get in the way of that relationship in-- in this kind of way? And you know what he said to me? "Probably not."
(BARKING)

TAPE #98

PG. 34

And I said, "Why? Why wouldn't you? Would you think that I would get you in a lot of trouble? That I would hate you? That I would think that you were evil? What-- what is it?" He said, "Nah," he said, "I don't think that. But you know what? I wouldn't want to rat on my friends. And I-- and I know if I told you I'd be--" and this-- he knew what the case was about. He said, "I know it'd become a big thing and everybody'd be involved." And he said, "And I'd be ratting on all my friends. Well I guess maybe that's the-- how kids look at it.

QUESTION:

The-- do you have any thought about sort of David's motivation in all these stuff? Or how David-- he dealt with the evening (PH) in a crazy way obviously, very unusual.

FRAN GALASSO:

Oh yeah.

QUESTION:

And even now he's sort of playing games. You know he's helping Jesse, tried to prove his

TAPE #98

PG. 35

innocence now. But he really hasn't been helping him much for the last 12 years. I mean what-- do you have any thoughts about--

FRAN GALASSO:

Well, Jesse's already admitted to everything. So it's pretty hard to establish any kind of innocence at this point. What is going through David's mi-- what is he-- what is he? Well I think when you put these people under pressure, they crack a little bit. Their-- their behavior is-- is a little bit irrational.

You know they don't act like normal people. You-- they're-- they're-- suspicious. They're angry. They're not capable of forming good solid close relationships with-- with other people. You may know some of these-- you know these are some of the things you look-- you look for.

QUESTION:

Is it a surprise to you for example that David's not-- doesn't have a relationship, isn't married--

-

TAPE #98

PG. 36

FRAN GALASSO:

No.

QUESTION:

Tell me--

(OVERTALK)

FRAN GALASSO:

No.

QUESTION:

-- just some-- tell me--

FRAN GALASSO:

Oh, it'd be very hard for somebody like that to establish-- a close personal relationship I think with either one man or-- or one woman. There are too many secrets here. There's too much violence that's gone on in-- in the background. It's probably better that-- that that's the way it is.

(BARKING) You know you have to-- on some level you have to feel very sorry for somebody like that, too. Because it can't ever-- and I won't ever believe he's a very happy person.

QUESTION:

Yeah. He must-- that must be-- do you think

TAPE #98

PG. 37

that's a big burden for him?

FRAN GALASSO:

I think there must be moments when he has to admit to himself, you know when he's all by himself, somewhere in his mind he knows everything that went on. He was probably a witness to some of it. He knows what his own childhood was like. He knows what his brother has said. He knows what his father has said. There's-- there aren't any secrets as-- as far as that goes.

And then on another level, I think you have-- you have this great sense of denial. Because I think if you-- if you didn't deny it on some level you would-- you would go crazy. I think we spoke earlier about you know the kind of-- if you have to rank criminals, obviously even-- even criminals rank child abusers as-- (LAUGHTER) at the very lowest rung.

They even hate those people. So now if you-- and

TAPE #98

PG. 38

you think about the things that I've told you-- what these people have done to little helpless children. And now think that your own father could do this? I mean that would be a very hard thing I think to-- to accept. Think of how your own children look at you. Do you think that you would ever want them to view you in this-- in this light. And I-- I think on-- on another level, you know when a-- a very conscious level, that he can't do that.

QUESTION:

Did-- did-- in the Q & A-- (BARKING) tell me what-- Arnold said about-- about David. And his-- you know--

FRAN GALASSO:

He didn't say much about his other son. He tried to keep them out of it. (BARKING)

QUESTION:

But at least he told you--

FRAN GALASSO:

Right. We knew about the abuse. And we knew that it-- that-- the abuse of the other-- at

TAPE #98

PG. 39

least this computer school was started at the-- basically at the beginning of-- of Jesse's-- adolescence. But-- we believe that-- that he was involved. And well we know he was involved in abusing children before that.

And he had-- he had the-- the access to children that he taught (BARKING) at Bayside High School. He had-- he had the music lessons-- that he gave. The family had a-- a house-- which I understand was in a rather secluded-- area out east-- somewhere in the North Fork, I believe, of the Island.

We know that large-- groups of children would-- were brought there for weekends. But we don't-- we know that they were shown films. We had a lot of information that they were shown films. We don't know the-- content of the-- of-- of those films.

QUESTION:

But at some point-- along the lines of, "Why is

TAPE #98

PG. 40

this guy so angry?" At some point Arnold did say that he had molested his own--

FRAN GALASSO:

Right.

QUESTION:

--of-- of his own kids--

(OVERTALK)

FRAN GALASSO:

I-- I believe--

QUESTION:

-- like-- like--

FRAN GALASSO:

--Jesse said that-- also. And-- didn't he say that in the--

QUESTION:

No, he said it about himself.

FRAN GALASSO:

Oh, so that-- he didn't mention the brothers? Didn't he say--

QUESTION:

-- remember all that--

TAPE #98

PG. 41

FRAN GALASSO:

--we bruisers (PH)? Okay.

QUESTION:

Yeah.

FRAN GALASSO:

Alright.

QUESTION:

But--

FRAN GALASSO:

Right. Arnold-- Arnold admitted to having-- a--
a-- abused his-- his own three sons. (BARKING)
But beyond that he wouldn't implicate them in any
other crimes or-- or-- or say much-- much more
than that.

QUESTION:

In the end, what-- what happened-- you know what
was the-- punishment for-- for Arnold and the--
and for Jesse?

FRAN GALASSO:

Arnold was sentenced to 10 to 30 years on the
federal crime of-- the child pornography crime.
And then he-- pled guilty to the charges that

TAPE #98

PG. 42

were presented by-- Nassau County and was sentenced concurrently to the same amount of time. Which basically means you're serving the two sentences at-- one time. But if he-- if he had gotten out--

(BREAK IN TAPE)

FRAN GALASSO:

(IN PROGRESS)-- described what Peter (PH) told me. I wasn't there.

QUESTION:

Yeah. Well Peter-- Peter said that there-- he was in a pretty fancy pen--

FRAN GALASSO:

Pretty-- pretty nice place, yeah.

QUESTION:

Yeah.

FRAN GALASSO:

Tennis times and tee times for golf. And--

QUESTION:

And when--

FRAN GALASSO:

--nice. (LAUGHTER)

TAPE #98

PG. 43

QUESTION:

--so Arnold went away to it-- (LAUGHTER) so
Arnold w-- was in prison for-- five or six years
I guess. And then--

(OVERTALK)

FRAN GALASSO:

I don't know--

QUESTION:

--got--

FRAN GALASSO:

--when it was that he-- that he died. I-- I
don't know.

QUESTION:

But what happened to him in the end--

FRAN GALASSO:

Well, I mean he went to-- he went to federal
penitentiary-- out in the upper Midwest
somewhere. I-- I seem to recall Wisconsin. But
I-- I'm not positive. I believe it was somewhere
in Wisconsin-- a special prison for sex offen--
offenders. Jesse was sent-- upstate. I'm not
sure-- exactly-- which prison. I think he might-

TAPE #98

PG. 44

- may have been in more than one--

QUESTION:

(UNINTEL) I think--

FRAN GALASSO:

Okay, is it?

QUESTION:

--up at some--

FRAN GALASSO:

And he was at least-- for a time-- because I was told by an author who was doing a book on-- Joel Steinberg (PH)-- remember the Steinberg case? And this particular author had gone up to interview Joel Steinberg and his-- cellmate was Jesse-- Jesse Friedman.

QUESTION:

That's ironic.

FRAN GALASSO:

So they were-- they were (LAUGHTER) together.

QUESTION:

The-- that-- and so-- and so then what-- now-- now Je-- Arnold pled guilty. And then separately Jesse I guess held out for awhile. How did that

TAPE #98

PG. 45

work? Wouldn't (PH) they both plead the same time? Or was Jesse holding out for something? Or did Arnold make a deal for Jesse?

FRAN GALASSO:

Arnold made his deal right away. And-- I guess that was on advice of counsel. Jesse, of course had a different attorney. Whether he was holding out for-- for a better deal-- I think he was. I mean the absolute minimum was this six-- six to 18. I don't think the parents ever would've accepted anything less than this.

And many were not happy with-- with this particular sentence. Plus we had the-- you know we had the-- the Ross Goldstein piece of it. So we were developing that with the thought of going to trial. So-- I mean we weren't in a-- a-- a big rush-- to force this to trial. We were-- all the time gathering more and more evidence about it.

QUESTION:

And there was a second set of indictments. I

TAPE #98

PG. 46

guess were there two-- there were two--

FRAN GALASSO:

Right.

QUESTION:

--sets of indictments?

FRAN GALASSO:

Right. As we developed the newest victims, we took more-- statements. And we went back and we got-- second set of-- of indictments. I could've done a third and a fourth and a-- believe me.

QUESTION:

And now tell me, just so we have it sort of in one place, now you know what-- what happened to Jesse then? What was his penalty? And then where is he now?

FRAN GALASSO:

Jesse got six to 18. And I'm not sure what prison he's in. He's still in jail. He should be eligible for-- for parole shortly. And then he'll be out.

Hopefully he will be covered by Megan's Law and

TAPE #98

PG. 47

then people will be able to find out where he is. Although I'm not even sure of that. Because when he was convicted it was prior to Megan's Law being enacted. So I'm not sure how that-- how that works. You would have to ask Judge Backlin (PH) about that.

QUESTION:

Right. And I think he's gotta come before Judge Backlin again--

FRAN GALASSO:

Does he?

QUESTION:

Yeah.

FRAN GALASSO:

She always said that-- that if she had anything to do with it, he would serve his full amount of time.

QUESTION:

Yeah. And did you ever feel sorry for Jesse? Did you ever feel like Jesse was-- a victim? And it was a terrible thing? And that's why he got into--

TAPE #98

PG. 48

(OVERTALK)

FRAN GALASSO:

Jesse was a victim. There's no question. And in his early childhood Jesse was a-- a victim. But I think that-- that Jesse reached a point in life when he clearly knew what he was doing was wrong-- that what was happening was wrong. He could have tried to get out of it. He didn't.

Even when he was caught, Jesse never expressed any kind of sympathy for these kids. He never gave any information-- even after his conviction to the parents where-- other people that might help these children in any way. I mean I-- I didn't see any kind of real remorse on-- I think he's very sorry he got caught. But that-- that was about it.

QUESTION:

Yeah. The-- tell me about the steps of the courthouse-- or how the family behaved at the videotaping. I remember there was a moment you said that-- that you went outside and--

TAPE #98

PG. 49

(OVERTALK)

FRAN GALASSO:

Oh yeah. They tried to videotape the-- the victims as they came into court. Course they were stopped from doing that. At one point, I believe it was in the-- at one point in federal court when the father was sentenced by the federal judge-- Jesse and David made a-- some-- very threatening-- remarks to some of the families that were sitting there.

"You'll get yours. We'll get you." You know that kind of-- that kind of thing-- those remarks. David-- said-- to the parents of the little boy who'd lost the hair-- the boy that I had told you about-- at the sentencing of-- I don't recall whether it was the father or the brother now. I-- I tend to think it was the brother's sentencing.

Walked right up to-- this particular father and-- and grandfather of this little boy. And said,

TAPE #98

PG. 50

"I-- I hope-- I hope your son suffers the rest of his life. I hope he suffers these ef-- effects the rest of his life."

QUESTION:

There--

FRAN GALASSO:

That was David. Right. And of course you know the father got up and lunged for him. And the court officers came-- came over. (BARKING) And the court room had to be quieted down. And--

QUESTION:

Did-- when you saw them videotaping, did you think they (BARKING) were kinda making light of it?

FRAN GALASSO:

I-- I think it was an effort to-- it-- it-- a very misguided and-- and clumsy-- really effort to try and intimidate people.

QUESTION:

With the video--

FRAN GALASSO:

Yeah, with the-- with the video. And-- and don't

TAPE #98

PG. 51

forget, video video, right? What are you-- what are you saying to those kids? Hmmm? 'Cause this is going to be on TV. Maybe somebody else is videoing and is going to be on TV. There were-- there were no times when the children appeared in the court.

You have to realize that-- except for the grand jury. (BARKING) They-- they appeared for the grand jury. The Friedmans were not there. Or they were there-- (CLEARS THROAT) they were not there on those occasions. Just the children were there. And they were kept separate from-- from everybody in a special place.

QUESTION:

I have two-- I have two-- two last questions.

FRAN GALASSO:

Yeah.

QUESTION:

One is, what would you say if I'm a parent and I'm thinking about hiring this guy for my birthday party and I have no information about

TAPE #98

PG. 52

any of this stuff. And somebody calls you up and says, "You know I'm thinking about this guy, Silly Billy." How-- how would you respond to that? What would you say?

FRAN GALASSO:

Well I would-- if they were interested I'd tell 'em the story that I told you, and say, "Now do you really want to hire Silly Billy? It's up to you." Or I would have to tell them, "I wouldn't hire Silly Billy. And here are the reasons."

QUESTION:

Just sort of-- one last question about just sort of your-- how-- 'cause you know you chose a-- line of work here which is not easy. This is not like taking you know-- it's not working in a doctor's office. This is not being a college professor. (PHONE RING) This is the real engagement (PH).

FRAN GALASSO:

Right.

QUESTION:

What-- (CLEARS THROAT) was there anything that

TAPE #98

PG. 53

led you to be interested in this? Anything in your life which made you feel like you know, you were interested in this particular area of the law or law enforcement?

FRAN GALASSO:

No. Just that I had-- prior to this assignment I had been assigned to the Juvenile Aid Bureau (PH). And I acted as a liaison officer between the family court and-- and the police department-- more or less arranging for officers' testimony and working with the-- the county attorneys who were going to trial on some of these matters.

And it-- it-- it was a real eye opener to me to see how many cases of abuse there were. I would never have dreamed that-- that there was that much abuse. Because prior to that I'd always worked in a regular detective squad where you get a whole variety of-- of cases.

So yes, you'll-- you'll get a case like this. But so-- rare, that-- that you really view it as-

TAPE #98

PG. 54

- as something-- an anomaly of-- of human nature.
Oh-- so there-- there came a time when there was
a vacancy in the squad.

QUESTION:

In the se-- (UNINTEL).

FRAN GALASSO:

In the sex crime squad that-- the-- person who
had it got promoted to Lieutenant. And I had
done about four years in the courts. You know I
was tired of it. I wanted a change. And I
thought, "Gee, you know what? I-- I think I--
I'd like to do this. I'd like to see what's
involved here and-- and-- see what we could do to
help some of these kids. Let's--"

QUESTION:

Did you ever have any personal experience with
people in your family who had been victims? Or
anything--

FRAN GALASSO:

No.

QUESTION:

-- like that?

TAPE #98

PG. 55

FRAN GALASSO:

Thank God. No.

QUESTION:

Yeah.

FRAN GALASSO:

But you can be--

QUESTION:

Yeah.

FRAN GALASSO:

-- you-- let me tell you, you become very
paranoid about it--

QUESTION:

Talk about that a little bit--

FRAN GALASSO:

--oh--

QUESTION:

-- about-- what--

FRAN GALASSO:

--I did--

QUESTION:

--how it left you. And-- I know you retired--

TAPE #98

PG. 56

FRAN GALASSO:

I--

QUESTION:

-- what five years after this case? Something like that?

FRAN GALASSO:

No. S-- a few years after the case. You-- you do. You become more suspicious of people. You know I-- I think I once said to somebody I think I had arrested-- or my squad had arrested, "Every category of person, with the exception of a nun," we had never arrested a nun. (LAUGHTER)

But ev-- just about every other category of-- of person-- religious and non religious-- I mean from-- from-- youngster-- you know just barely out of adolescence themselves to-- I think we had a grandmother who was 83, if you could believe that. Just the-- this enormous variety. And-- and-- you could--

QUESTION:

All-- all caught-- they were all molesting?

TAPE #98

PG. 57

FRAN GALASSO:

With children. Right. So you do a lot of bus drivers, teachers-- people that your children interact with every day, okay. So you become very very cautious. I know I-- I had this little girl-- my own little girl was at the time about two years old. And-- then it was time for her to go to nursery school, and then-- and then pre-school. And well, I wouldn't put her on a bus, you know. I still won't put her on a bus.

(OFF-MIC CONVERSATION)

* * *END OF SIDE A* * *

* * *SIDE B BLANK* * *

* * *END OF TRANSCRIPT* * *

6/12/03

"CAPTURING THE FRIEDMANS" - TRANSCRIPT

LOGO: HBO Documentary Films

LOGO: Magnolia Pictures

TITLE: A Film By Andrew Jarecki

JESSE:

(home video footage)

Hi, hi. It's me. Oh, we're not ready yet? Hi.
Hi. It's me, Jesse. Are we-- we there? Yeah.
Okay. Good. We're there. Well, this afternoon
after a very lousy sketch about yo-yoing I figure
we'll, for lack of anything better to do, we'll
take it towards a more serious side right about
now. And we're going to conduct an interview
with Arnold Friedman... Ta Da... my father.

JESSE (VO):

I still feel like I knew my father very well. I
don't think that just because there were things
in his life that were private and secret and

PG. 2

shameful that that means that the father who I
knew and the things I knew about him were in any
way not real.

OPENING CREDITS:

CAPTURING THE FRIEDMANS

ARNOLD

ELAINE

DAVID

SETH

JESSE

SONG LYRICS:

(MUSIC) *They're gonna put me in the movies.
They're gonna make a big star out of me. We'll
make a film about a man that's sad and lonely.
And all I have to do is act naturally.
Well I'll bet you I'm a gonna be a big star.
Might win an Oscar, you can never tell. The
movie's gonna make me a big star, 'cause I can
play the part so well. Well, I hope you come to
see me in the movie. Then I'll know that you*

PG. 3

will plainly see, the biggest fool that's ever hit the big time. And all I have to do is act naturally.

ELAINE:

Arnold liked pictures. I mean, that's, let's face it. He liked pictures.

ARNOLD:

(home movie footage)

Well, we're here. This is it, the whole family assembled. Everybody in Great Neck, New York.

(MUSIC)

HOME MOVIE CARDS:

CARD #1

"PECULIAR WARNING: THIS SHOW MAY BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH"

CARD #2

"CAST PICKED AT RANDOM FROM THE FUNNY FARM"

CARD #3

"PHOTOGRAPHY BY ARNOLD FRIEDMAN"

ELAINE:

We had three sons. David being the oldest had a

PG. 4

lot of responsibility when he was young. Seth was an outright rebel. And somehow Jesse was just like the, the one that, that keeps trying to catch up and doesn't quite make it (MUSIC ENDS).

DAVID:

I have very good memories of the, of, of my, well. I have very good memories of my childhood. I had a great time growing up. We had a great, I had a great time because of my friends. And my father was, was, was great. I mean, he may not have been the best father, but, but, but he, he went to Columbia University. And then when he graduated he went to the Catskills to play in his band.

SONG LYRICS:

(MUSIC) *The Jazzbo Mambo with the boogie beat is the newest dance on 52nd Street.*

DAVID:

The band was called Arnito Rey and his Orchestra. My father's name was Arnold Friedman. This was in the late 40's and early '50s. So he played Latin music. It was very big at the time. And so

PG. 5

he changed his name to Arnito Ray.

SONG LYRICS:

They're doing Jazzbo Mambo eight to the bar.

DAVID:

I don't know. My dad was a cool guy, you know? He was a schoolteacher. And I think that the other kids liked him, and he liked kids. But he didn't like spending a lot of time with his wife, so he would teach high school during the day, and then after school he would come home and teach piano lessons and later computer lessons in the house. And that was, of course, more time he didn't have to spend with his wife.

ELAINE:

I'm not that anxious to talk about his father because, you know, we were divorced, and... But his father, he would ... I don't really want to talk about it.

ARNOLD:

(home movie footage)

In case anybody didn't know, I'm the father of this family. I'm never in the movies. Never see

PG. 6

me in any of the pictures. But I really am the father. And we're all gathered together while David is messing up the camera here. No, he's taking a good movie and zooming in and out. When you see me on this, you're gonna say... (LAUGHS). Okay, shut it.

DAVID:

He died of a surprise heart attack about five years ago. And it was very, very sad. He was, you know, selfless and altruistic.

ANDREW (OC):

But in the end, he wasn't together with your mom?

DAVID:

He wasn't together with my mom at the end.

ANDREW (OC):

And when did they make the decision not to be together? Long before he died?

DAVID:

Couple years before his death. There's a lot I... There's a... well, whatever. There's some things I don't want to talk about.

(MUSIC)

PG. 7

DAVID:

(home video footage)

Well, this is, this is private, so if you don't, if you're not me then you really shouldn't be watching this because this is supposed to be a private situation between me and me. This is between me now and me in the future. So turn it off. Don't watch this. This is private. If you're the fucking, oh, god, the cops. And if you're the fucking cops, go fuck yourselves. Go fuck yourselves because you're full of shit.

JOHN MCDERMOTT:

Back in 1984, US Customs had seized some child pornography addressed from the Netherlands in the mail to Arnold Friedman. Now, he never got that piece of mail, but his name was forwarded on to us. So what we would do then would be to initiate a correspondence with Arnold in the hopes that we can determine if he is in fact willing to violate the statute again about mailing or receiving child pornography.

PG. 8

"Dear Stan, the book is Joe, 14, and his uncle. I think I'd like you to send me something, sort of good faith, and I will forward this rather precious book to you. Thanks. Arnie."

ELAINE:

See, it's very hard to believe that this so-called "good marriage" was so disturbed. He sent him these pictures, and he sent him a note that I remember 'cause the lawyer got the note. And then he wrote, "Enjoy."

JOHN MCDERMOTT:

Since he had sent the magazine he was always asking for it back. So I asked the prosecutors, "Let's grant him his wish. He wants his magazine back." I dressed up as a mail carrier, knocked on his door, asked him if he was Arnold Friedman. He replied he was. And I said, "I have a package for you. Sign right here." He did.

About an hour later we went back. We would give him some time with the magazine. I'm dressed now, I just put a blue suit jacket over the

PG. 9

carrier's uniform. And I told him, "I have a search warrant for child pornography." He says, "There's nothin' like that here." And I said, "You don't recognize me?" I'd just been at his door an hour ago. He goes, "No." And I took off my jacket, and I said, "Now do you recognize me?" "Oh, yeah. Oh, okay. The magazine is upstairs."

So we went up to his bedroom. In the top dresser door was the open magazine. Well, he thought we would take the magazine and leave. And I said, "No. No, we have a search warrant. We're gonna search the whole house for child pornography." And around that time his wife showed up.

ELAINE:

I thought they were searching like for marijuana or something. I didn't know what they were searching for to tell you the truth. And I thought it was a big mistake.

JOHN MCDERMOTT::

One of the first things we went to was his office. And I remember just as I was about to

PG. 10

pull out a drawer Mr. Friedman came rushing in and said, "Wait. I'll get that for you." And there wa-- and said, "Here. This is, this is all that's there." And it was one piece of mail from the Netherlands, but it was child pornography. And he said, "That's it. That's all there is." And I said, "Well, that's great, Mr. Friedman, but we're still gonna search." And he goes, "I don't, I don't understand why you don't, why don't you go when I tell you that's all there is." And I said, "Well, we don't believe you."

ELAINE:

Well, it's not something he sort of left lying around on the kitchen table. He wasn't proud of it, and he kept it hidden. He had his office downstairs. It wasn't like right there. You had to go downstairs and around the corner to get to his office. And he said, we used to have someone that cleaned. He says, "Don't let her clean in here. It's okay. I don't want my things disturbed." So alright, I never went in there.

JOHN MCDERMOTT:

Then one of our inspectors moved the piano that was in that office. And that's where his stash of magazines were held, behind the piano.

ELAINE:

And this was Arnold's secret. He liked to look at pictures of boys. And it's not that he acted on these things. He, he just wanted to, to look at these pictures and meditate or ...

JOHN MCDERMOTT:

And these are listings of the magazines that were found behind the piano. "Young Boys and Sodomy," "Incest Case Histories," something called "Chicken Pickin's Magazine." And in addition to that we found evidence of a computer class being taught there by Mr. Friedman. And we did seize some list of names that we thought could be students. I remember walking in there saying, "God damn. We could have a problem here."

FRAN GALASSO:

Just when you think everything is going to be dull something gets dropped on your lap, you

know, and it turns out to be something bigger than you ever, than you ever thought. What happened was one of the detectives from the vice squad came in to see me. And he had a list. And it was at that point that we were able to learn that these were computer classes that went on literally every day of the week and Saturday. And we drew a big map of the whole village of Great Neck, sectioned it off, and started sending detectives out to do interviews.

ANTHONY SGUEGLIA:

She set us up in teams - male/female teams. And we got a list of alleged victims. Soon as we went into the house we were usually approached by the mothers. And we explained why we're there, what we're doing there, and we'd really like to talk to their children, preferably alone.

FRAN GALASSO:

The parents were becoming impatient. They wanted something done immediately. But you always want to be very careful about how you proceed because the one thing that you worry about, and I know I

PG. 13

worried about it all the time, is -- just charging somebody with this kind of a crime is enough to ruin their lives. So you want to make sure that you have enough evidence and that you're convinced that you're making a good charge.

ANDREW (OC):

And how much time was there between the time that the postal inspector searched the house and the time that you went in for the second search?

FRAN GALASSO:

Well, it would have been less than a month because we did that the day before Thanksgiving.

MALE NEWS ANCHOR:

A prominent middle-aged teacher in a prosperous Long Island town is charged with sodomizing young boys who were his students.

FEMALE REPORTER:

Police are charging that sexual abuse went on behind the doors of 17 Picadilly Road in Great Neck.

PG. 14

FRAN GALASSO:

We rang the doorbell. As soon as he realized who it was, he wasn't gonna let us in. So one of the detectives broke the door down. And we went into the premises at that point. Arnold was by himself. His wife was out shopping.

ELAINE:

I was out to the store to buy a Thanksgiving turkey. And I go up the front walk to the house and there're people all over the house. And my husband is sitting, looking very sheepishly in the dining room -- handcuffed.

FRAN GALASSO:

By this time just about every news organization you could name had arrived on the scene.

DAVID

I went home for Thanksgiving. Got to the house, and there's cops and news trucks all over the place. And I got worried, of course.

JOSEPH ONORATO:

When David came to the house, we were able to ascertain eventually the type of business he was

PG. 15

in. And we heard that he was involved in children's entertainment in the form of some sort of clown activities.

ANTHONY SGUEGLIA:

I was there when the clown came in. He was ranting and raving. We had words. And I was going through the folders. We told him to take a hike.

FRAN GALASSO:

And he kept trying to come into the house, and I kept telling him that he couldn't, that he had to leave. He wasn't, wasn't allowed while we were searching. And finally he, he came in for the last time. He bent down. I really thought he had a weapon in that duffle bag. Everybody kind of, you know, reached for a, a gun at one point. He came out -- what he came out with was a pair of Fruit of the Loom underwear. And he started prancing around, flailing his arms in the air saying, "Look at me. Look at me. I'm an asshole. I'm an asshole."

PG. 16

DAVID:

(news footage)

They're harassing my father for no reason at all.

DAVID:

If I had had a, some kind of Arabian sand scarf I would have wrapped that around my face and been Lawrence of Arabia, which might, maybe that would have been better. But I took out underwear and I put it on my head because I didn't want to be on camera.

FEMALE REPORTER:

The first arrested was Arnold Friedman, a retired schoolteacher who was charged with sodomizing boys aged 8 to 11.

FRAN GALASSO:

(news footage)

The charges are that while running a computer school, Arnold Friedman and his son engaged in various forms of sexual abuse against minor children.

DAVID:

Jesse pulls up coming home from school. His

friends dump him out of the car.

JESSE:

David sort of grabbed me and we were sitting a couple of houses down sort of on the sidewalk. And he was saying something to me. And then the, one of the TV cameras came over, so we kind of ran to the backyard. And we went behind the house. And we were in the backyard of our house.

DAVID:

And then cops came back, and they said, "What's going on here?" And I said, "Don't worry about it. It's just me and Jesse." And they said, "Well, we want Jesse, we need Jesse in the house now." Of course, we thought, you know, we didn't know why that was.

JOSEPH ONORATO:

As we conducted more interviews of the children, Jesse's name started to pop up. And, and Jesse was there. And what did Jesse do? And then eventually we were able to ascertain that Jesse's role was not one of, you know, helping his dad conduct the computer class but basically abusing

the children himself.

FRAN GALASSO:

We didn't have children telling us that, that Arnold had slapped them around. But quite a number of the kids reported incidents of being slapped and having their hair pulled or their arms twisted by Jesse. He was by far the more violent one.

JUDD MALTIN:

All these policemen said that Jesse was some kind of aggressor. That even his father was cowering, and Jesse was this sexual, molesting tyrant. I challenge anyone to find anyone who Jesse had even teased as a child or called a name. Jesse was not an angry person. He was not an upset person. So we ended up spending a lot of time together. I was over his house three days a week, four days a week. And as far as I know him, none of this ever happened. Not on my watch.

FEMALE NEWS REPORTER:

Eighteen-year-old Jesse Friedman also stands

accused of sex abuse and using a child in a sexual performance.

JESSE:

The only thought that I just kept having the whole night was "we're gonna get bailed out and then we'll go home, and we'll figure out what's going on. And the lawyers will take care of this. And they'll straighten this out." Because it was still just a matter of, "This is a big misunderstanding." But when the bail was set at a million dollars, instead of going out with Mom and David like we were supposed to, we went back the other way. And that was the moment when there was this whole new sense that the problem was much worse than I originally thought.

(MUSIC)

FRAN GALASSO:

The investigation didn't end at that point. That really was the arrest and the search of the house. And then we went on because we had literally at that point dozens more interviews to do.

ELAINE:

Somewhere along the way, I think it was the Nassau County cops. They showed me this magazine, and they said, "You see? Look at this magazine." And they showed me the magazine. They were embarrassed to show it to me because of what the pictures were. And you know, I didn't see it. My eyes were in the right direction, but my brain saw nothing. Because when it was all over the lawyer showed me the magazine, and then I saw it. For the first time I really saw it. And I just, I couldn't believe what I saw.

I, I mean, I had no concept that this thing even exists in the world. That this magazine would even be in the world. This is, I mean, we had a middle-class home, educated. I had a good family, right? Where did this come from?

FAMILY FRIEND:

(home movie footage)

Mr. and Mrs. Friedman's house on this most beautiful Thanksgiving dinner.

PG. 21

GRANDMA:

(home movie footage)

(IN PROGRESS) For my daughter, for my son-in-law,
and, and for my three grandsons.

JESSE (as a child):

(home movie footage)

I'm thankful that both my brothers are home. And
I...

ELAINE:

(home movie footage)

I'm most thankful to my husband, to Arnie.

VOICES:

(home movie footage)

Aw.

REPORTER (OC):

(news footage)

Anything you want to say, Mr. Friedman? Are you
guilty? Did you do all they say you did?

ARNOLD:

(news footage)

No comment.

HOWARD FRIEDMAN:

I was the first to visit my brother in prison. And that was a, a moment in my life I'll never forget. He came into the room. I was sitting at this table. And a lot of tables. And they were crowded. Just awful surroundings. And he didn't have his glasses on. Without his glasses he was blind as a bat. They'd taken them off and broken them, stepped on them. He had a smell of urine. They were throwing urine at him. They were threatening to throw him down the stairs. They knew what he was in there for. The media, it was all over the media. And he was half-blind and hadn't shaved in two days and shivering and cold and scared out of his wits. The first words out of his mouth were, "Howie, they're gonna kill me. They're gonna kill me. Get me out of here."

COURT CLERK:

(news footage)

The People versus Arnold Friedman and Jesse Friedman. Indictment 67430. Step up, please.

FEMALE NEWS REPORTER:

(news footage)

So began the very first time cameras were permitted in a Nassau County courtroom. Fifty-six year old Arnold Friedman and his 18-year-old son Jesse heard the court clerk read off a 91-count indictment charging them with sodomy and sexual abuse.

COURT CLERK:

(news footage)

Arnold Friedman, how do you plead to this indictment? Guilty? Or not guilty?

ARNOLD:

(news footage)

Not guilty.

COURT CLERK:

(news footage)

And Jesse Friedman, how do you plead to this indictment ...

JESSE:

(news footage)

Not guilty.

COURT CLERK:

(news footage, overlapping)

... Guilty? Or not guilty?

HOWARD FRIEDMAN:

My brother and Jesse kept saying they're innocent. "This is trumped up charges." And they got a McMartin's. You know, they, they somehow got one kid to, to, they got the police to be able convince the kids, "Well, all of your friends said something happened. Didn't something happen? Something must have happened," et cetera, et cetera. And they were convinced. They, they kept saying they were innocent. And I just kept thinking, "I have to believe them."

FRAN GALASSO:

It's very hard for people to accept him as a, as a pedophile. Arnold Friedman was an award-winning teacher. All over the house were plaques and newspaper articles written about him. He had been given an award, "Computer Teacher of the Year." He also taught piano.

(PIANO MUSIC)

ELAINE:

David plays beautifully. And his father taught him how to play the piano.

DAVID:

It was when he died that I realized how much of an impact he had on my life.

ARNOLD (OC):

(home movie footage)

Take a bow (LAUGHTER).

DAVID:

He, he was very supportive of my magic when I was a kid. (MUSIC) When I was about six, my father took me to a magic show. And it's probably my earliest memory.

ELAINE:

You know when your son goes to college and you say, "Go to college. And, and what are you gonna be? Be a doctor. Be a lawyer." I tried to make him into a doctor or a lawyer (LAUGHS).

DAVID:

You know, my mom would always say, you know, "Get a job. Get a job." But my dad would say to me,

"You know, David. I can't tell you what to do because you know what I did when I got out of college." He blew off his chemical engineering degree, which he could have worked for an oil company and made tons of money. Instead, he played in the mountains, which is a total blow-off, follow your dream, artistic thing. And I totally love him for that.

FATHER OF COMPUTER STUDENT:

Trust your children to somebody who was a schoolteacher for over 20, 30 years. A member of your community. All you heard were accolades about this person. And now all of a sudden he's a monster. And things that were being said, you know, upset the community because you don't expect that here.

ELAINE:

(MUSIC) Great Neck is a peninsula. It's a very insulated community. This was a, a certain kind of person that lived in Great Neck.

JOSEPH ONORATO:

It's on the North Shore of Long Island, which is

usually a predominately wealthy area. These are wealthy, professional people that have garnered a great deal of income in their lives. And they live accordingly.

ANTHONY SGUEGLIA:

Nice community. Tight. Affluent. Well-kept homes.

DAVID:

They get dressed up to go shopping. They, they want to be sure they get seen by the people they want to see. And cars are important. Clothes are important.

FATHER OF COMPUTER STUDENT:

There's a lot of competition in Great Neck. Everybody's kid's a genius and the best. And everybody's the best in this and that. And you just want your kid to be happy and to get an array of experiences. And this computer class was one of those experiences. You thought you were doing right.

JOSEPH ONORATO:

Most of the children started out explaining how

Mr. Friedman would try to test them I think, in my opinion, as to whether they'd be receptive to some of his advances. There'd be certain showings on the computer during computer class of certain material that was inappropriate for children.

FRAN GALASSO:

If you were going to be the first one abused on a particular day, he would pull up a chair and sit next to you. Maybe it would start with his arm around your shoulder or on your leg and gradually move it up touching private parts.

JOSEPH ONORATO:

And then over the course of time we developed a situation where we found out that there was not only sexual touching of the genitals, but there were acts of sodomy, oral and anal sodomy, that took place during the course of the class.

ANDREW (OC):

So were the kids abused in the computer room in view of everyone else?

FORMER COMPUTER STUDENT #1:

From what I saw in my sessions none were raped out on the floor. The kids were raped in Jesse's room or the bathroom.

ANDREW (OC):

Just to change the subject for a second, there were these sexual computer games that were discussed during the course of the case.

FORMER COMPUTER STUDENT #1:

We'd basically do the games where there would be naked girls and everything -- in the computer class. But I remember one time I slipped one of the games out, and I brought it home and everything. And I copied it. And Arnold found out. Because of that I was raped by him and Jesse at the same time as punishment to that. I never did it again. He made me format it. I formatted it. I had to bring my computer in and show him that I hadn't brought it home. So he was absolutely positive, 100 percent that it was not touched at all in any way, form, shape whatsoever.

ANDREW (OC):

And how did he know that you brought it home?

FORMER COMPUTER STUDENT #1:

'Cause the, he accounted for all the disks that were there. And since he flipped through, he's like, "Who the fuck took this? Tell me now or I'm gonna kill you all!" And he had a knife, and he was waving a knife around. I was like, "I did it. I did it. I did it."

RON GEORGALIS:

My general recollection of the classes, is basically a positive one, is a pleasant one. The types of behaviors which were described, which were, well, just downright satanic in nature. I mean, they make him sound like some kind of brutal sadist, where as I had just always thought of him as being kind of a, a nebbish.

FORMER COMPUTER STUDENT #2:

(on telephone)

I think as someone who took the classes it was just hard to picture even that going on because I did have a good experience. And I didn't, you

know, see anything, you know, remotely like, you know, like, like child molestation or child abuse or any, child-anything going on.

RON GEORGALIS:

What took place in Arnold's classes was pretty much just straight computer lessons. I mean, as ordinary and as boring as you could possibly imagine it.

FRAN GALASSO:

It was just generally a free-for-all because it was, everybody could, could see what was, what was going on. And very often they would participate in these, these, sort of, mass games in, in the classroom.

ANTHONY SGUEGLIA:

There was a game there that was called "leapfrog." And this one really got to me. It was, they would play leapfrog in the class. They'd actually have their clothes off. And we, we associate leapfrog like you do when you were a kid, one guy jumping over another guy. But the fact is, it means everybody's butt's up in the

air, so to speak.

RON GEORGALIS:

The very nature of these charges is so absurd. It, it seems almost like some kind of grotesque fantasy.

FORMER COMPUTER STUDENT #1:

Yeah. Leapfrog. I remember about that. It's kind of like Twister where we would have to sit down. Our asses would be in the air. Arnold and Jesse would leap from one person to another sticking their dick each in our ass.

ANDREW (OC):

But then I was confused because you said, "No kids were raped in the computer room."

FORMER COMPUTER STUDENT #1:

The leapfrog game, which was not molestation, was a leapfrog game, was not considered molestation, was done outside. But that was, that was a, that was a group game. The actual molestation, one-on-one contact, happened in the bathroom. The game happened out on the floor.

SCOTT BANKS:

One of the things you, you sit down there, and I know I've, you know, think about this, you know, "How could this go on in, in this home for so long and, and not be, you know, come out?" But, you know, that's, that's a, that's a, that wasn't my province. That wasn't what I had to decide or the judge had to decide. You know, that's up to someone else to decide that.

But if I recall, you know, the children were pretty vivid in their recollections as to what Arnold and or Jesse did to them. And Judge Boklan, you know, she's a pretty strong-willed judge. And she's pretty unmovable when she makes her decision.

JUDGE ABBEY BOKLAN:

There was never a doubt in my mind as to their guilt. And remember, I'd been around for a while. This wasn't, you know, the first sex case that I had ever seen. In fact, my previous law secretary used to tease me that we were the

pervert part. And having been, you know, head of the Sex Crimes Unit myself where, you know, I had young boys who were sodomized, in fact, one who killed himself, you know, after the sentence of the abuser. I mean, some horrible experiences. So for me to be so outraged. I mean this was really very, very bad what was going on there. It was like someone's worst nightmare. Who would even think of, of doing these things? And to do them in a group and with so many witnesses.

HOWARD FRIEDMAN:

The scenario as posted by the media and the police was so incredibly way out it was hard for me to believe that it was true.

LARRY KING:

("Larry King Live" footage)

We now welcome, also in Los Angeles, Debbie Nathan. Debbie is an investigative freelance journalist who has been covering the McMartin and other abuse trials around the country. All these parents are bizarro, huh? They're all whacked?

DEBBIE NATHAN:

("Larry King Live" footage)

Well, it's not really fair, I don't think, to deal simply with these parents or with this particular case. You have to understand that all over the country there is a hysteria. And I don't think that it's a question with most of these kids of lying. I think that they have been brainwashed if you will.

DEBBIE NATHAN:

I was one of the first writers for the mass media to look at those cases critically and question them. So as a result of that, having done a lot of that work, I got a lot of letters from people.

DAVID:

And my father wrote to Debbie and said, I don't know, said, "Help me." And she has been the only person outside the family that said, "I believe you."

DEBBIE NATHAN:

In the Friedman case, the basic charges were completely implausible. First of all, you'd have

to believe that blood is coming out of these children's orifices. That they're screaming. That they're crying. That their clothes are soiled from semen and from blood. And yet their parents show up. Sometimes they show up unannounced. Everything looks fine.

ANDREW (OC):

Was there any physical evidence in the case that was relevant? Or it was really, was the case really strictly based on the statements of the kids?

JOSEPH ONORATO:

It was more testimony. It was, there was a dearth of physical evidence. I, I don't even recall whether there was any physical evidence that would have indicated one way or another that these events took place.

DEBBIE NATHAN:

I don't think that they're sitting around with any kind of diabolical or conspiratorial agenda to go out and falsely accuse Arnold Friedman or railroad Jesse Friedman. But nobody's critiquing

them. Nobody's telling them that there's a right way and a wrong was to do this. Nobody's saying that we've got a problem in this culture with hysteria around this issue. And so they're really free to let their fantasies fly.

FRAN GALASSO:

I think the most overwhelming thing was the enormous amount of child pornography. You would just have to walk into the living room and it'd be piled around the piano. There were literally foot-high stacks of pornography in, in plain view, all around the house.

DEBBIE NATHAN:

But photos taken during the search showed nothing of the kind.

JOSEPH ONORATO:

But as far as the families were concerned, I don't want to use the word that they were competitive with each other. I don't know if it's to that extent. You know, sometimes it'd be some idle conversation about, you know, another boy, you know, "He was sodomized five times, but

my son was sodomized six times," you know, as if that meant something in the overall scheme of things.

DEBBIE NATHAN:

There's a whole community atmosphere that gets created in a mass-abuse case like this, where the families are talking to each other, they're going to community meetings, or they're calling on the phone all the time. They're seeing each other in group therapy. And there is definitely an element when a community defines itself as a victimized community that if you're not victimized, you don't fit into that community.

FATHER OF COMPUTER STUDENT:

The families that had their child molested or allegedly molested became very involved and it took a greater part of their life at that point. I appreciated their call in the beginning telling me what happened. And then when I told them that we'd looked into it and my wife and I both felt that nothing happened to our son. It got to be a little pushy situation where they told us that we

PG. 39

were in denial and it absolutely happened to our son.

(MUSIC)

MALE VOICE ON PHONE:

(BEEP) You fucking bitch. I'm gonna kill you. When Jesse gets out of jail, he's a dead motherfucker. When Arnold gets out of jail, he's a dead motherfucker. Fuck you! And fuck your whole family! (HANGS UP)

ANDREW (OC):

Is there any one word or phrase that you could use to describe the experience overall?

ELAINE:

Chaos. Hysteria. It was really crazy.

HOWARD FRIEDMAN:

Am I dreaming? Is this a nightmare? The, this can't be happening to my family. My brother? And a day doesn't go by that I don't think of it. It destroyed my family. It tore us apart.

ELAINE:

I don't know. I, I can't say too much about it. They, they were ... We were a family.

PG. 40

(MUSIC)

INTERCARD:

After spending 6 weeks in jail, Arnold is allowed home under house arrest to prepare for his trial.

DAVID:

(home video footage)

Mommy believes you did it. And she believes you should go to jail. And she believes that she deserves everything that's left and you shouldn't have any part of it. You have to hire another lawyer!? All this woman does is hire lawyers. I honestly have to tell you, anything that she decides, I can't trust. She, she runs around, "Arnie, they don't trust me." Well, we don't trust her. We lived with her for three, for two months while you were in jail, and we learned not to trust her.

DEBBIE NATHAN:

David had just gotten a video camera when this case broke. And so he just started recording the family falling apart.

JESSE:

(home video footage)

People are telling me, "Look what your father did to you. Look at the mess he got you into." And Mommy believes him, and I don't. I tell them to get lost. And Mommy says, "You're right." And "I've lived with him for all my life. And look at all these horrible things he's done for me over 30 years." Which amounts to nothing -- except this.

JESSE:

At some point David making the videotapes kind of springboarded to my thoughts about audiotape. And I began to make audio recordings of these family arguments.

ELAINE:

(on audiotape)

He's my husband! He doesn't belong to you!

JESSE:

(on audiotape)

He's my father. He doesn't belong to you.

PG. 42

ELAINE:

(on audiotape)

Well, he doesn't belong to anybody now.

JESSE:

(on audiotape)

Why don't you tell me why you're being so pessimistic and why you're not standing behind the family and why you don't believe us?

ELAINE:

(on audiotape)

I don't believe your father because you father has never been honest with me. And I don't know where the truth is at this point.

SETH:

(on audiotape)

You're so fucking stupid!

GRANDMA:

(on audiotape)

Don't scream.

(OVERTALK)

SETH:

(on audiotape)

I don't want to talk about this!

Why are we talking about this?

FEMALE VOICE:

(on audiotape)

We're trying to--

(OVERTALK)

SETH:

(on audiotape)

She's stupid! Don't listen to her!

ELAINE:

The family was screaming at each other. And everybody wanted me to say, "He didn't do it." Well, I wouldn't do that. I said, "I don't know." And I didn't, they wanted me just to lie, you know, and say, "He didn't do it," whether I believed it or not. And I was so angry at Arnold and what he'd done that I wouldn't do it. And I said, "Well, I don't know." And I wanted just to tell the truth. That is the truth. I didn't know.

DAVID:

My mother abandoned him, pretty much. Wouldn't talk to him, fought with him constantly, made him sleep on the sofa. And after 33 years of marriage when your wife, when you've been accused of a crime you didn't commit, you spend six weeks in pri-- in jail for it, you're trying to build a defense, and your wife leaves you, essentially, my father fell apart.

DAVID:

(home video footage)

You yelled and screamed about what, that you ruined her life. She's brainwashed you. You didn't do anything. The police have done it to you. It's not your fault. The police are do, are, are railroading you.

ARNOLD:

(home video footage)

That we know.

DAVID:

(home video footage)

But it's not your fault.

JESSE:

(home video footage)

Mommy doesn't believe you.

DAVID:

(home video footage)

The police pick-- picked on you, and that's who they're going after. It's not because you deserved it.

ARNOLD:

(home video footage)

I'm taking the blame.

DAVID:

(home video footage)

You're taking the blame, and you don't deserve the blame. She's brainwashing you into thinking that it's your fault. And it's not your fault. She thinks he did it. And if he did it, then she thinks he's going to be convicted of it. And if he's convicted of it, he's gonna go away.

JESSE:

(home video footage)

Yeah, but if, let's say he goes away for 10

years.

DAVID:

(home video footage)

And even if she--

JESSE:

(home video footage)

He's still gonna come out.

DAVID:

(home video footage)

No. I'm talking about 50 years. I'm talking about 100 years.

JESSE:

(home video footage)

She doesn't think he's getting 50 years. I don't think she thinks that he's gonna get 50 years.

DAVID:

(home video footage)

Okay. So what is he gonna get? Twenty years? That's, that's 50 years.

JESSE:

(home video footage)

What's the difference, well--

DAVID:

(home video footage)

If he goes to a state institution on state charges you know he's not coming back.

JOSEPH ONORATO:

In this case, there was consultations between both sides -- the District Attorney's Office, the families, the defense attorneys -- as to what to do with Arnold Friedman.

JESSE:

We were trying to maintain a sense of normalcy in terms of having dinner and paying the bills, but it was almost surreal. I mean just, I don't think any of us had any notion of what was going on, or what we were doing, or where any of this was leading.

JESSE:

(home video footage)

Sir, sir would you like to comment on the

situation?

ARNOLD:

(home video footage)

Yes, I, I think this is a kitchen.

DAVID:

I thought it was only gonna last a year and that we would look back and laugh about how crazy we were and how we didn't know what we were doing. And just sort of laugh.

ARNOLD:

(home video footage)

What do you want my nose, my teeth?

DAVID:

(home video footage)

Wait a minute, there it is-- there's your nose.

ARNOLD:

(home video footage)

Oh that's great. (CHUCKLE) I feel like I'm being dissected here.

DAVID:

(home video footage)

And here's Mommy and Daddy in a rare moment of affection.

ARNOLD:

What's the matter?

ELAINE:

(home video footage)

I should have affection for you...why? Why?

ARNOLD:

(home video footage)

Why? Why not?

ELAINE:

(home video footage)

Tsuris is all I ever got from you.

ARNOLD:

(home video footage)

PG. 50

That's not all. You've gotten other things.

ELAINE:

(home video footage)

Lately.

ARNOLD:

(home video footage)

Lately but not-- but not all.

(MUSIC)

SONG LYRICS

You're the one who's stolen my heart...

ELAINE:

I think I was the first woman that he ever really dated. And he was very reluctant to get married. I sort of said, "We've got to do this," you know. I could be very... So he says, "Well, alright." Big mistake (LAUGHTER).

HOWARD FRIEDMAN:

We were delighted. She was effervescent, pretty. They seemed to be very much in love. They seemed

PG. 51

to be very compatible. It had been a long time in coming. My mother (CHUCKLE) "You're my oldest, get married, I want a grandchild," you know.

DAVID:

My mother is sexually ignorant. As far as I'm concerned she had sex, I mean everyone thinks their parents only had sex three times, you know for each of their, each of the siblings. But with my mother I think it was true.

ELAINE:

And it was like, you know you read in a book how do you have sex. And you start here and then you do step one, step two, step three. And that's somewhat like what sex was like with Arnold. Because I used to say to him, "It's called fore-play. It's supposed to be play, it's supposed to be fun." And he treated it like work. Like this is what you're supposed to do when you do it,

like washing the dishes.

DAVID:

If he was so much in the closet and not living with her and not attracted, where was she for 30 years? Why didn't she say, "Honey, you're not having sex with me. I think I want a divorce." Where was she? I don't think that's the case. Something, either she's, either they're both crazy -- which is a possibility. Or, or he was perfectly normal based, according to, you know, by her standards.

(MUSIC ENDS)

LYRICS

You're the one for me.

HOWARD FRIEDMAN:

It was a difficult marriage because of Elaine. She had her problems, and it took a monumental amount of patience and love and caring to handle it. It wasn't easy for him. It wasn't easy for

PG. 53

the kids. But they were able to live with it. She was the best mother she knew how. She loved her kids and she loved her husband. She wasn't the warmest, most outgoing human being in the world.

ELAINE:

When I had the first child, I was just ecstatic. But I didn't know how to do it. And I wasn't the most well balanced person myself. You know, we all have hang-ups and...That's my hang-up: Good things can never happen to me, only bad.

ARNOLD:

(home video footage)

That's all, that's all the snapshots.

DAVID:

(home video footage)

I know.

ARNOLD:

(home video footage)

This whole thing is all the snapshots.

DAVID:

(home video footage)

I know. Did they go, and they looked through
each one?

ARNOLD:

(home video footage)

They must have. This is, this is ancient film.

JESSE:

(home video footage)

What is it Dad?

DAVID:

(home video footage)

Holy shit.

JESSE:

(home video footage)

Dad, what is it?

PG. 55

DAVID:

(home video footage)

Oh my god, it's amazing. How did you get this?

This is great.

ARNOLD:

(home video footage)

This is my Dad's--

DAVID:

(home video footage)

Who took it?

ARNOLD:

(home video footage)

--my-- father.

JESSE:

(home video footage)

Dad, what's that a film of?

ARNOLD:

PG. 56

(home video footage)

This is a film of my sister.

(MUSIC)

HOWARD FRIEDMAN:

I had a sister. She died a year before I was born. My brother knew her when he was young, of course. And she died of blood poisoning. It was a horrible, terrible, sudden death.

ELAINE:

And it destroyed the family. Arnold's parents divorced. So Arnold's mother had these two boys and they were really on welfare, I don't know, it was, they lived in a basement apartment. Evidently, there was one bedroom and the boys slept in the bedroom with the mother.

HOWARD FRIEDMAN:

We shared, all three of us, not in the same bed, but we all shared the same room, big rooms. And

PG. 57

rather than put a, apparently they, the living room was the living room and then there was the kitchen. So we put all the beds in the one room.

ELAINE:

And that she dated a lot of men and would bring the man, men into the apartment and they would have sex in the bed while Arnold was there listening. And Arnold said that because he saw his mother in bed with a man, that when he was adolescent he was experimenting -- as all children do -- and he had sex with his brother in bed or something like that. And to me, that's not what all children do.

DEBBIE NATHAN:

Arnold sent me this right around when he started writing me and it's called "My Story" and it was written in 1988. And I think it was his attempt to talk about the case, but also talk about the

case in the context of his life.

And it starts out, it says, "This story goes back 50 years to when I was a child." He says, "When I reached adolescence I sought out partners for my emerging sexuality. My first partner, when I was 13 was my eight-year-old brother. I had overt sexual relations with him over a period of a few years."

HOWARD FRIEDMAN:

I know that my brother has said that he messed around with me when I was a kid. And I don't remember any of it. I don't remember anything. I have nothing up here that has me yelling, or screaming or crying, or trying to get away, or unhappy or...I, there's nothing there that, maybe someday a door will open, but it better hurry up, because I'm 65 (CHUCKLE). And at this point in

time, I could care less.

DEBBIE NATHAN:

Then he goes on and says, "My next partners were boys my own age all of which sexual relations probably being within norms for my age. However, the emotional impact of these relations was very pronounced, and lasted through my adult life. A more normal situation, as probably happened with my partners, would have been to outgrow and forget these episodes. However, I literally fell in love with these boys. And the relations were far more significant to me than they were to my partners."

And then he told me that when he got to be an older teenager, like maybe in his late teens, he started worrying that he was still attracted to kids that were the same age as his brother had been when Arnold was 13. And that really started

PG. 60

bothering him. And then after he had his own children he was worried. He started worrying that maybe he would molest his own children.

And at that point he went to therapy. And the therapist told him, "No, don't worry. You've got everything under control."

SONG LYRICS

The Jazzbo Mambo with the boogie beat is the newest dance on 52nd Street. All the cats come running from both near and far to do the Jazzbo Mambo eight to the bar.

JESSE (OC)

Come on, Light Fingers... Light Fingers, come on.

SONG LYRICS

Jazzbo Mambo! Jazzbo Mambo! Jazzbo Mambo, eight to the bar.

FRAN GALASSO:

PG. 61

You could see that this wasn't exactly Fred McMurray and "My Three Sons" right? It was, it struck us as being a very dysfunctional family, obviously. And would have to, you would have to wonder -- wouldn't you -- what kind of a family situation you would have that could produce this kind of crime. What might it be like to grow up in a household like this? I don't know. I can't even imagine.

DAVID:

(home movie footage)

Today is September 14, 1975. We just concluded a tour of Jungle Safari.

SETH:

(home movie footage)

Jungle Habitat.

DAVID:

(home movie footage)

Jungle Habitat in West Milford, New Jersey. Here

are my three brothers.

SETH:

(home movie footage)

Two brothers, you dummy.

DAVID:

(home movie footage)

Two brothers. Alright, there are three children.

ELAINE:

What happened was the three sons were like a gang. Like "This is our gang. And Mom, Mom, she's not, she's not part of our gang."

DAVID:

(home video footage)

And we have of course, (CHUCKLE)

JESSE:

A pterodactyl.

DAVID:

A Pteradactyl.

ARNOLD:

PG. 63

(home movie footage)

A Jewish pterodactyl. Shmuck, shmuck, schmuck.

DAVID:

The four of us got along so well. We had a very similar kind of sense of humor. You know one guy would say something and then it would, then the next person would add to the joke. And my mother who has no sense of humor, and she just didn't get that part of us. And she resented that.

ELAINE:

When this whole thing blew apart, the men got together and Arnold confided in them. And me? And I was a loyal wife. People told me, "Oh why don't you leave him, he's a horrible person. Just walk out and leave him." And I didn't. I went all over town. I raised money for bail. I called every relative I knew. I begged. And I did all this for him, right. He was my husband,

PG. 64

I loved him. And no one said, "What do you want?" to me.

SCREEN ID: PASSOVER SEDER, 1988

JESSE:

(home video footage)

Toast to Daddy being here next year. Ma, your toast.

DAVID:

(home video footage)

Or even next month.

ELAINE:

(home video footage)

That's my toast. That we have a seder next year.

DAVID:

Okay.

JESSE:

(home video footage)

Okay, I think we can eat now.

DAVID:

(home video footage)

So you're saying, so what we have is the people who we thought would testify and say that nothing happened--

GRANDMA:

(home video footage)

The lawyer calls up on a Sunday?

DAVID:

(home video footage)

--that something happened. And we are afraid to put them on the witness stand, even though we know that nothing happened. We think they will say something happened.

JERRY BERNSTEIN:

The Friedmans suggested that we speak to various

PG. 66

people who may have been present at the time. And some of those people weren't alleged victims at all. And that the hope was that one or more of these people would say, "This is just not true." But that just didn't happen.

DAVID:

(home video footage)

They're not getting favorable and you're getting negative. The kids who, he said this one kid who wasn't, he wasn't pressing charges, he wasn't approached by the police or maybe he was, but he didn't join up with the police. And he's claiming that something happened.

As far as I'm concerned he's being, he's, clearly he's lying because nothing happened. Did something happen, Dad?

ARNOLD:

PG. 67

(home video footage)

No.

DAVID:

(home video footage)

So then nothing happened.

DAVID:

We begged him to tell us that something happened to explain how this whole mess could have happened. That's the only way to explain how it could have happened, other than the fact that the police are out of their minds. He, we begged him, he told us nothing happened. That's good enough for me -- nothing happened.

JESSE:

If my father had the ability to confess to me, yeah he had done something one time, and that's how this whole crazy mess got started, it would

PG. 68

make a lot more sense. Not that I wanted that to be the case. But you have to find a way to explain the unexplainable.

DAVID:

(home video footage)

Oh, my gosh.

GRANDMA:

(home video footage)

Oh, look at that.

GROUP: (singing)

(home video footage)

"Happy Birthday to you. Happy Birthday to you."

GRANDMA:

(home video footage)

Is that a real ice cream?

ELAINE:

That's what's so odd about it. They had this idealized image of this father as being this

saint-like person, this Santa Claus, Messiah, you know. And professionals in the field say that, oh they have this idea that children identify with the abusive parent.

When I was about a year or two, my parents separated. And what did I do? "My father is wonderful. My mother is terrible." The truth is -- my father was a rat, just like David's father. My father walked out. This is not wonderful. This is being a rat. My mother was, my mother was a nag. Well, I mean this is true. But look, she stayed with me, she took care of me. So people's visions are distorted.

DAVID:

I never felt angry at my dad. My dad had nothing to do with this. Someone knocks on the door and accuses you for a crime you didn't commit, you gotta, you gotta attack, attack your attackers

PG. 70

and do what you can. And that's all it was. It had nothing to do with... There was nothing else that was involved at all.

ELAINE:

(home video footage)

We were talked about honoring and respecting.

DAVID:

(home video footage)

But yeah, talk about honor and r--, do you honor and respect your husband? That's why I don't talk to you.

ELAINE:

(home video footage)

I said I did honor and respect my husband.

DAVID:

(home video footage)

Oh, okay.

ELAINE:

(home video footage)

PG. 71

But you don't like that answer.

DAVID:

(home video footage)

No I don't, I don't believe it, no.

ARNOLD:

Things are getting a little out of hand.

ELAINE:

(home video footage)

Ask your father. Do I honor and respect you?

ARNOLD:

(home video footage)

Yes, you do. Things are deteriorating here.

ELAINE:

(home video footage)

Do you object to my handling, do you have any
objection in my relationship with you?

ARNOLD:

PG. 72

(home video footage)

No.

DAVID:

(home video footage)

Do you like it when she calls you slime?

ARNOLD:

(home video footage)

She doesn't call me slime everyday.

DAVID:

(home video footage)

She did. Did you like it when she did?

ARNOLD:

(home video footage)

No, not that one time.

DAVID:

Okay.

ARNOLD:

That was the only time.

DAVID:

(home video footage)

Did you like, do you like it--

DEBBIE NATHAN:

The other cases that I've written about -- those families have been much stronger. They've, first of all they've started from a monolithic feeling of innocence, which didn't exist in this family, because of Arnold's pedophilia. And they just buckled down and everybody gets behind the defendant, the accused family member. People quit their jobs. And you know people were all sitting around the kitchen table for the next three years with staplers and Xerox machines. And they're working on the defense. And then when the defendant is convicted, they're working on the appeal. And all family conflict is

PG. 74

submerged.

ELAINE:

(home video footage)

Why don't you try once to be supportive of me.

DAVID:

(home video footage)

Well, I'll tell you why. Because we all started
at the beginning of this thing and, and--

ELAINE:

(home video footage)

Well let's start from right now.

DAVID:

(home video footage)

Okay, let's start from right now.

ELAINE:

(home video footage)

Right now.

DAVID:

(home video footage)

Alright, let's start from right now. We'll start
brand new. We're all starting brand new.
We have a decision making process on the table.

SETH:

(home video footage)

Great.

DAVID:

(home video footage)

All the past mistakes, they were mistakes. We're
not gonna hold them against anyone.

SETH:

(home video footage)

Great, great. Now we're starting afresh.

ELAINE:

(home video footage)

PG. 76

All I ask is that --

SETH:

(home video footage)

Stop, lower your voice, and talk nicely to your sons.

ELAINE:

(home video footage)

-- I wanted you guys to call me.

DAVID:

(home video footage)

Alright, we're gonna do it, starting now.

GRANDMA:

(home video footage)

Seth, why don't you call me?

(OVERTALK)

(MUSIC)

JERRY BERNSTEIN:

I think there was a recognition that Arnold's case was becoming increasingly hopeless because

PG. 77

of the child pornography problem, because of other people coming out of the woodwork. So the strategy evolved to, "What can we do to save Jesse?"

ELAINE:

Jesse's lawyer very eloquently said to us, "If there's a rowboat and it's sinking, and the rowboat is tied to a rock, you have to disconnect the rowboat from the rock and save the rowboat even though the rock is sinking." Meaning you had to separate Arnold from Jesse. And Arnold was going to plead, and Jesse would in some way benefit.

JESSE:

I was sitting there potentially going to trial with no pornographic magazines admitted into evidence. Without an adult pedophile as a co-defendant. And I understood that sort of reasoning. But it makes no sense if my father

PG. 78

pleads guilty and then I go to trial and say, "I didn't do it," when all the jurors have already read in the newspaper that my father plead guilty.

And I did not want my father to plead guilty.

SCOTT BANKS:

I arranged for Mr. Friedman and his family to get a jury room where they could sit and they could discuss these plea options. And while I didn't go inside the room except to knock on the door and say where we're at in terms of what Mr. Friedman wanted to do, there was a lot of yelling and crying, and screaming going on, coming out of that room.

ELAINE:

When I screamed at Arnold I screamed, "You must do it because it'll help Jesse. Do it for Jesse."

JESSE:

PG. 79

And my brothers were just furious at this notion that my father would go to court and plead guilty. And at one point in all of the chaos my father just started screaming. And there's uncontrollable tears. He picked up a chair, I remember he threw a chair. He was just screaming about how he wasn't gonna plead guilty, he didn't do anything, he's not gonna plead guilty. And he was furious at my mother, and he was, he was just freaking out.

And I remember very clearly sitting down with my father in the corner. My mother's over there, my brothers are over here. I'm talking to my father privately and he asked me what he should do. And I could have said to my father, "I want you just to walk out of here and go to trial and not plead guilty." Instead, I remember very clearly saying to him I wanted him to make the decision. And I

PG. 80

remember feeling like a really young kid. Kind of looking up to my Dad and saying, "Dad, I, you know, I want you to be my Daddy."

And I would have been really, really proud of him if he just stood up and said, "Elaine, I'm not pleading guilty. We're going to trial." But that's not what happened.

MALE REPORTER:

Former New York City schoolteacher Arnold Friedman had nothing to say when he left the Nassau County Courthouse in Mineola. But inside he pleaded guilty to more than 40 counts of sodomy, sexual abuse and endangering the welfare of a child.

COURT CLERK:

(news footage)

Attempted sexual abuse in the first degree, an "E" felony, two counts. And endangering the

PG. 81

welfare of a child, a Class "A" misdemeanor, one count, in full satisfaction of this indictment?

ARNOLD:

(news footage)

Yes.

DAVID:

My mother manipulated him. My mother is crazy, and my mother has control over my father. Some relationships have that, where the woman controls the man. It's called being pussy whipped. My father and my mother are not the only two people in the world who have that relationship. My father and mother had that relationship. My mother and the lawyers said, "Take the plea." They took the plea.

HOWARD FRIEDMAN:

I sat there in disbelief. Is this my brother? My brother? This isn't my brother, he's not a monster. He's a good loving brother, and husband,

PG. 82

and son, and citizen, and teacher. And this
isn't happening. This is a mistake. Something as
horrendous as child molestation, you have to live
with yourself. If you didn't do it, you don't
plead guilty. I never understood it.

INTERCARD:

It's the night before Arnold is to begin serving
his sentence.

(MUSIC)

JESSE:

(home video footage)

We have Elaine.

ELAINE:

Hi.

JESSE:

We have Teddy, Arnie.

PG. 83

ARNOLD:

(home video footage)

Number 4753206.

ELAINE:

(home video footage)

Don't. Please don't film me. I, David, I told
you I don't want to be on tape.

JESSE:

(home video footage)

Why are you so ...

DAVID:

(home video footage)

She wants no, when we stop talking to her--

JESSE:

(home video footage)

She doesn't want--

(OVERTALK)

PG. 84

DAVID:

(home video footage)

She doesn't want any record, any record at all.

ELAINE:

(home video footage)

Can you believe these kids? That they have to
persecute me?

ARNOLD:

(home video footage)

David, if your mother doesn't want to be filmed,
don't film her.

DAVID:

(home video footage)

Okay.

ARNOLD:

(home video footage)

Come on.

PG. 85

ELAINE:

When it was all over they said it was all my fault because I wanted them to do... to take a plea and ... It had been arranged before. Arnold wanted, agreed to take a plea. But they were very hurt.

ARNOLD:

(home video footage)

I'm still here. (CHUCKLE) I may not be here very much longer, but I'm still here.

DAVID:

(home video footage)

That's disturbed.

ARNOLD:

(home video footage)

Yeah.

MALE REPORTER:

The sentence: 10 to 30 years. The crime:

PG. 86

sodomizing young boys. Defendant Arnold Friedman had pleaded guilty to sexually abusing more than a dozen youngsters. But this does not end the Friedman case. There are still numerous sodomy and sex abuse charges pending against Arnold's son, Jesse Friedman.

JESSE:

(home video footage)

You know, without Daddy in this case I can't see any reason why we shouldn't go to the media with this. I mean we could try this case in the media. Who's gonna, who's gonna buy that I sodomized boys?

DAVID:

(home video footage)

Yeah, I agree with you, I agree with you.

JESSE:

(home video footage)

No, I really--

DAVID:

(home video footage)

Well, I don't think we have to. Well all I want to do, I think we can certainly, we can go to trial and prove it in the trial.

JOSEPH ONORATO:

We didn't make a deal with Arnold Friedman to spare his son. So his son is facing a multiple count indictment, he's facing a considerable amount of jail time. And now he's confronted with a situation where Long Island knows that his father admitted his guilt. And there's a reasonable human expectation of some people that, you know, where there's smoke there's fire. And if he did it, maybe his son did it. He was, we know he was in the same class and he was helping his father. So I think that was a difficult

thing for Jesse to have to overcome.

(MUSIC)

PETER PANARO:

I always believed Jesse. How could this possibly go on for four years? Children repeatedly sodomized and sexually abused, with brutality if you believe the police. And then their parents come to pick them up right after computer class and not one kid is crying. Not one kid tells his mother or father what happened in class. Not one kid says anything? I find that so incredible that Jesse's story that nothing happened -- to me -- was more believable than the police version of these horrific acts.

Jesse and I went, we flew in August of 1988 all the way to Madison, Wisconsin where we rented a car and drove 90 miles to some town that I couldn't possibly give you the name of, to a

PG. 89

federal prison. Who knew more about this case then Arnold Friedman? He knew more about it then Jesse. I had to wait 40 minutes because Arnie was either playing tennis or golf, I don't remember what it was. I was outraged.

It was a visiting room. Jesse was out in the waiting room at this point. And this man had this little boy in there who was his son or his stepson, I don't know. But the child was about four or five years old. And they were in the table right next to us. And I was interviewing Arnie, and all of a sudden he leaned over and asked me if I could ask the corrections officer - - or whoever was in charge in the room -- if we could get another table. And I asked him why, and he said, "That little boy over there bouncing on his father's lap is getting me very excited."

PG. 90

It took me about 15 minutes to regain my composure. I remember that like it was yesterday. I was shocked. 'Cause even though I was involved in the case now for two months, and even though I had studied pedophilia and I knew what these men did to little boys, I had never heard somebody actually say it. And I was absolutely disgusted.

We did change our table and I spoke to Arnie. I interviewed him for a very long time. He was telling me that the only reason he pled guilty and went to jail was because he wanted to save his son, Jesse. He told me that he had, that he was a pedophile. He told me that he had had activity with boys. But not in Great Neck.

He told me that he had a house in Wading River, a beach resort. And that the family enjoyed

PG. 91

vacations there. And he told me that there were certain boys he took liberties with, and I don't want to go into it, while he was in that area.

DEBBIE NATHAN:

(reading)

"In my early '40s, during the summer, I did go quote, 'over the line,' and did have sexually arousing contact with two boys, short of sodomy. One of the boys was the son of a close friend and I feared exposure and loss of this friendship. The boy might have told his parents but they said nothing. So I assumed that he really had not told them."

DAVID:

That's what? It's one sentence, what does that mean? What, do you fucking know what that sentence means? I don't even fucking know what that sentence means. I "sexually aroused?" What the fuck is he talking about? Maybe he put his

arm around the kid. Maybe he was, took him in a sailboat. And he found that sexually arousing. Maybe he was leaning against a tree. That's called sexually arousing contact, if you're sexually aroused while you lean against a tree. I don't know what that means. I don't know what that sentence means.

ELAINE:

When Arnold was first arrested, he said, "I'm arrested because of this magazine. I sent one magazine in the mail and that's why I'm arrested, and it's nothing. It's just nothing, it doesn't count, it doesn't matter, it's nothing." And you know, you, you live as husband and wife, you share certain intimacies. I said to him, "Tell me the truth. What happened?" He says, "That's it. That's the truth."

So it came out that he had, in fact, molested a

PG. 93

young man. And we were sitting in the therapist's office. And he said, "Oh, I just molested two boys." And I said, "Two? Two?" I said, "I thought you told me only one." "Well, you know" and he "it didn't matter, and it's nothing," you know. And then I went berserk. And I felt betrayed.

JESSE:

Yeah, so my father had the magazines. And yes, my father admitted that he was a pedophile and had these fantasies. And yes, my father admitted that he was no saint. And that there were times that he slipped. But I was arrested, too. And I'm not a child molester. And I don't think it's appropriate for me to have to answer for the sins of my father.

(MUSIC)

DAVID:

This is what I walk around with. It's just,

every day. It's just ridiculous. All I think about is the case and my career. And they're completely -- it's like oil and water. With the case it's a question of research. My brother's been in the law library researching his current plan. And I'm supposed to go out and make people laugh. It's unbelievably difficult to deal with the case and then go out and entertain people.

DAVID (as a clown):

Hey! Hi, everyone!

PETER PANARO:

We carefully investigated this case for trial. Really get into the case, examine, investigate. And try to build a defense.

JESSE:

While I was out on bail, I put all the charges into a database. So that they could be sorted by complainant, by time period, by nature of charge.

PG. 95

For example, there was one complainant, ten-year-old boy. Says he came to class in the spring of 1986. And during this ten-week session where he was only over my house for an hour and a half once a week, he says that there were 31 instances of sexual contact. That's three times a week, every single week, for ten straight weeks. And then the course ends. In the fall, he re-enrolled for the advanced course and says that he was subjected to 41 more instances of anal and oral sodomy in the next ten-week session. And nobody said anything. Week after week, month after month, year after year. Until after the police came knocking on doors and asking questions.

FATHER OF COMPUTER STUDENT:

I went to the doorbell. There were two Nassau County detectives and they said they'd like to speak to our son with regard to the Friedman

matter. They came in and said "We know something happened to him." They didn't say "We believe." They said, "We know." And they wanted to speak to him.

RON GEORGALIS:

Yeah, I remember it was actually kind of a frightening experience because I remember they're talking to my parents about this. Within earshot of me. I remember actually eavesdropping on what they said. And what they said made my heart race. Because they were saying that actually quite a few horrible things had happened to a lot of children. And I was one of them.

And quite honestly, I didn't believe it, and I was very confused and very angry about this. Thinking, well, why are these people going around telling my parents that all kinds of things have happened when I have simply no recollection of

anything.

LLYOD DOPPMAN:

Children want to please very often. They want to give you the answers that you want. Adults do that as well. So you have to be very mindful of the fact that when you're interviewing a child, if the child starts to answer questions, your responses should be somewhat in the framework of, "And then what happened?" Or, "What happened next?" Or, "What do you remember then?" As opposed to, "He did this to you, didn't he?" Or "She did this to you, didn't she?" That's a very, very dangerous type of interview process to use.

ANTHONY SGUEGLIA:

If you talk to a lot of children, you don't give them an option, really. You just, you be pretty honest with them. You have to tell them pretty

PG. 98

honestly that "We know you went to Mr. Friedman's class. We know how many times you've been to the class." We, we, you know, we go through the whole routine. "We know that there was a good chance that he touched you or Jesse touched you or somebody in that family touched you in a very inappropriate way."

FATHER OF COMPUTER STUDENT:

And I listened to them talking to him and it got to a point where it wasn't asking him what happened. It was more of them telling him what happened. And that when they didn't like what he said, they kept repeating to him that they know what happened. And that he should tell.

FORMER COMPUTER STUDENT #3:

I believe that I remember saying that I saw Jesse like chase after a kid or hit a kid or something like that. And that's what I testified to, to the grand jury. And I remember saying that

PG. 99

because I felt, and I feel like when I said that, that ended the questioning. And so that might have meant that, you could infer maybe that they were asking me a lot of questions. Trying to get something. And I just wanted to give them something. I mean I don't want to be, say I'm a perjurer or anything. But I did not observe anything like that happening.

FORMER COMPUTER STUDENT #4:

(on telephone)

What I do remember is the detectives putting me under a lot of pressure to speak up. And at some point, I, I kind of broke down. I started crying. And when I started to tell them things, I was telling myself that it's not true. I was telling myself "just say this to them in order to get them off your back."

TEXT:

This student's testimony led to 16 counts of sodomy.

DEBBIE NATHAN:

I came across a document regarding a group of children from the Friedman case who were in therapy. And it stated that many of them had absolutely no recollection of the abuse. And there was some discussion about whether hypnosis would be a good idea now. Exactly what you're not supposed to do. It was the kind of therapy that had a really good chance of messing up kids' memories and implanting false memories.

FORMER COMPUTER STUDENT #1:

My parents put me in therapy right away. They put me in hypnosis and tried to recall facts that I had buried. And that's how I first came out, started talking about it. Just through, being hypnotized and everything. I recalled things

that I would bury. I was able to talk about them.

ANDREW (OC):

For example, what would be something that you recall?

FORMER COMPUTER STUDENT #1:

The actual first time I actually recalled that I was actually molested. Wow, I was actually molested, I can deal with it now. That was the first time.

ANDREW (OC):

And you recalled through hypnosis the first episode?

FORMER COMPUTER STUDENT #1:

Yes.

ANDREW (OC):

So tell me about that, if you remember.

FORMER COMPUTER STUDENT #1:

I don't remember much about it. It was just, it

was so long ago. I just remember that I went through hypnosis, came out, and it was in my mind.

TEXT:

This student's testimony led to 35 counts of sodomy.

MALE REPORTER:

(news footage)

19-year-old Jesse Friedman was arraigned on more than 198 additional counts of child sexual abuse. This brings the total number of sexual abuse charges to 245.

DEBBIE NATHAN:

Jesse was grossly overcharged. And you're basically terrorizing the defendant. You're telling the defendant "Look, if you plead guilty, you know, we'll give you a good deal. And, on

you know, two charges. But if you insist on going to trial, we're going to put 1,003 charges on you. And if you're convicted of all those charges, you're gonna rot in jail the rest of your life."

ELAINE:

I was told that if he went to trial, the judge would give three consecutive sentences. Instead of concurrent, the sentencing would be consecutive. I said, "Oh, my God."

JESSE:

She just kept telling me over and over: "The only thing to do is to plead guilty and to get the best deal you can. You can't go to trial. It doesn't matter if you're guilty or innocent. You can't go to trial because if you go to trial, you're gonna go to prison for the rest of your life." I said, "But Ma, I didn't do it." She said, "That doesn't matter, you have to plead

guilty."

PETER PANARO:

You have to understand, this is a 19-year-old kid and he is now facing the most heinous charge known to man. And everyone in the world slowly but surely was turning against him.

DAVID:

(home video footage)

I don't care about my parents. I wish it was just my brothers. Oh, fuck. I don't care about my mother, that's for sure. If my brothers were okay, then my mother could go to fucking hell. My father is not going to survive if my brother gets incarcerated. So, so when the guilty verdict comes in on Jesse, my father's gonna kill himself. Jesse's gonna go to jail for the rest of his life. Seth is gonna move west. Fuck... fuck.

PETER PANARO:

I received a telephone call from Jesse asking to see me. And Jesse told me that he wanted to plead guilty.

JESSE:

In 1988, there was no way that a jury in Nassau county who had been reading the newspaper headlines in Newsday for over a year, those people were never going to listen to anything the defense had to say. And I was absolutely terrified of going to prison for 100 years.

PETER PANARO:

Jesse had always maintained his innocence. I don't work out deals for people who are innocent. And my first reaction was, "I'm not gonna do it. You're not guilty, you're not pleading guilty." And at that point, he told me that "I have something to tell you." And with tears rolling